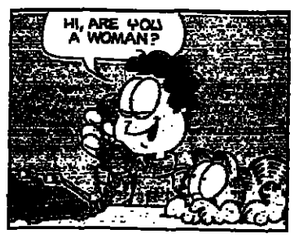
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THE JERUSALEM POST



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Netanyahu unlikely to back Sharon on Lebanon pullout

By DANNA HARMAN and DAVID RUDGE

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu is to convene his security cabinet today to discuss the situation in Lebanon, but – contrary to recent reports – is not expected to back Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon's proposal for a staged withdrawal, officials at Netanyahu's office said yesterday.

Sharon's long-standing position on a redeployment from Lebanon is that the IDF should retreat in stages, while conferring responsibility for security in south Lebanon on the Lebanese government.

Sharon has said on several occasions over the past year and a half that Israel should announce a date for the start of such a withdrawal and warn, in advance, that the IDF would react immediately and forcefully should the North come under attack.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Shaul Mofaz have both voiced disapproval of this plan, as have several other ministers.

Mofaz said last week that such a withdrawal would create more problems than it would solve.

"To sit on the border without an agreement and without anyone taking responsibility for the defense of the northern residents... will give less security to residents of the North and bring more work for us," Mofaz said Wednesday.

Netanyahu maintained on Friday that the cabinet's discussions on the possibility of a phased withdrawal from Lebanon would not be influenced by the election campaign.

Netanyahu, interviewed on Channel 1's *Shabbat Game* program, said the government had been debating the Lebanon issue for over a year "in an effort to extricate Israel from 20 years of entanglement with a serious problem.

Katyusha victim loses second baby, Page 2

"We have to be concerned with protecting the North and defending our allies [in south Lebanon], which is not easy," Netanyahu said. "Minister Sharon expressed his view, in the past six months, regarding a [phased] unilateral withdrawal from Lebanon. We did not know that there would be elections or that elections were approaching.

"We intend to complete the discussions," Netanyahu added. "I have come to the conclusion that whatever we do we will be accused of electioneering... I have decided that we will do what is necessary in order to protect Israeli civilians along the northern border."

A senior military source said that while there is a shared feeling of urgency and a general agreement on strategy – that something must be done to protect northern settlements and the soldiers in southern Lebanon – there remain great differences over tactics.

"I have had no indication that Netanyahu is leaning any more towards a withdrawal than before," said the source.

"There are several schools of thought in the government in regards to the Lebanese problem," said an official in the Prime Minister's Office. "There are those who agree with Sharon's staged withdrawal solution and others who believe in changing the military tactics. There are some pushing to restart negotiations with the Syrians as soon as possible and others who believe we should hit at the Lebanese infrastructure. All options are being considered, and Netanyahu has not indicated, in any way, that he is ready to back Sharon's plan at this point."

See LEBANON, Page 2

Moussa: Elections excuse to halt Wye

By BEN LYNFIELD and news agencies

Palestinian Authority leaders sought yesterday to muster foreign pressure on Israel to implement the Wye Agreement, with PA leader Yasser Arafat traveling to Egypt, while Culture Minister Yasser Abed-Rabbo voiced plans for senior-level meetings with US policymakers.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa claimed after talks between Arafat and President Hosni Mubarak in Cairo that Israeli elections provided Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's government with an excuse to suspend implementation of the Wye River peace deal with the Palestinians.

"There have clearly been developments and plans to suspend the Wye River agreement," Moussa told reporters. "The Israeli elections and competition among leaders and parties there will add a new hurdle," Moussa said.

"We expect the United States to put pressure [on Israel] toward implementing this agreement," Moussa added, charging that the Israeli handling of the agreement had created a bad impression.

Abed-Rabbo said in Ramallah yesterday that a meeting "at the highest levels" with US policymakers is being planned for early next month in Washington.

He said that the Palestinians intend to ask the US "to take a tough stand in light of the cynical policy of the Israeli government."

Plans to muster US and European pressure against Israel's conditions for implementing the Wye agreement was reportedly the main theme of Friday night's Palestinian cabinet meeting in Hebron.

The government has demanded that the PA desist from statements of intent to declare a state and that it agree to Israel's position that it never promised to release political prisoners.

Top PA negotiator Saeb Erekat said that Israel should not be allowed to use its election campaign to avoid redeployments specified by Wye. "This Israeli government continues to be a government responsible for its commitments," he said.

In Gaza, Hamas spiritual leader Sheikh Ahmed Yassin called for continued "armed struggle" against Israel during a rally Friday, just two days after his release by the Palestinian Authority from house arrest.

According to Ghazi Hamed, the editor of the Hamas affiliated *al-Risala* newspaper, Yassin called on the PA to stop negotiating with Israel, saying that Israeli policy has proved the peace process to be a false path. Yassin said that Hamas could cooperate with the PA if it stops the negotiations.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu said yesterday during a visit to Haifa he is concerned by the PA's release of Yassin from house arrest and by the escape from prison last week of a Palestinian charged with murdering two Israelis.



Barak on the campaign trail

Labor Party chairman Ehud Barak (right) greets residents of Shfaram with Mayor Ursan Yassin yesterday. Barak's visit sparked an angry response from Deputy Housing Minister Meir Porush (United Torah Judaism), who accused him of 'violating Shabbat and Jewish honor in front of Christian and Moslem religious leaders.' (Yossi Aloni / courtesy of Ma'ariv)

Likud leaders to challenge PM at party forum

Netanyahu to meet Mordechai today

By MICHAL YUDELMAN

The Likud's central committee is convening this afternoon amid threats by Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert and MK Uzi Landau to challenge Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu for the party leadership.

Olmert has said that he would make his decision in the next few days and is trying to win the support of Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai. Landau, who chairs the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, is expected to announce plans to run against Netanyahu, in a press conference this morning.

Mordechai, who is said to be seething over Netanyahu's offer of the defense portfolio to former deputy chief of general staff Matan Vilnai and the prime minister's conduct over the Wye agreement, has not responded to Netanyahu's attempts to persuade him to remain in the Likud. Netanyahu is expected to meet privately with Mordechai today.

Last week Netanyahu sent Likud Knesset whip MK Meir Sheetrit and Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi to try and help woo Mordechai.

Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon yesterday denied rumors that he is involved in any political moves against Netanyahu in or out of the Likud.

"Rumors to the effect that Sharon has joined forces with a person or a group interested in challenging Netanyahu – either in or out of the Likud – are untrue," said a spokesman from Sharon's office. "Sharon's position is and remains that at this time there is a need to create unity in the national camp and to reach a broad public consensus, and this is what Sharon is working for," the spokesman said.

But Sharon has not made any calls to support Netanyahu, nor has he said whether he would contend for the leadership of the party or the 'national camp.'

Elections '99





Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert (top) and Likud MK Uzi Landau: Netanyahu's rivals for party leadership? (Brian Hendler)

Netanyahu yesterday rejected the threats and hints by a number of activists, that the Likud would "settle accounts" with anyone who tries to challenge him.

This reaction followed statements by Likud central committee members such as Uzi Cohen, Shlomo Madmon and Yitzhak Regev on Channel One Friday night, that anyone who runs against Netanyahu in the Likud would pay for it.

The activists said they would make up an agreed list of MKs loyal to the prime minister, like former cabinet secretary Danny Naveh, Doron Shmueli and Yisrael Katz, and that only they would be chosen by the committee as Likud Knesset candidates.

They hinted that MKs who have criticized Netanyahu or intend to run against him would not be elected.

Netanyahu, meanwhile, accused the Israeli media yesterday of character assassination and conducting a smear campaign against him from his first day in office.

"I didn't get one day of grace from the media, which together with rivals, including Likud ones, has been systematically besmirching and conducting a character assassination against me," Netanyahu said on Channel 1's *Shabbat Game* program.

Netanyahu said the media has taken the recent events and magnified them, as part of its massive mobilization against him.

Netanyahu accused both the printed and electronic media with acting in a way which endangers democracy, when instead of doing its job and preserving balance, it takes sides in the battle "in a thuggish, slurring way, intended to sway the results."

Netanyahu said the media takes "natural events," like ministers leaving his cabinet or MKs quitting the Likud, and turns them into headlines.

"You take an old, well-known story which happened years ago – MK Dan Meridor decided a year-and-a half or two years ago to leave the party – you take a natural phenomenon in any party, and turn it into the big bang of politics, into the great collapse," Netanyahu said.

See LIKUD, Page 2

PA television goes global

By BEN LYNFIELD

A step towards sovereignty or the station you bypass on the remote control?

That question looms over the launch of Palestinian satellite television, which began broadcasting experimental signals last week and is due to reach all the Arab world and Europe with a full programming schedule next month.

To its proponents in the Palestine Broadcasting Corporation (PBC), satellite broadcasting will enable the Palestinian Authority to spread its message of state-building under PA leader Yasser Arafat to tens of millions of Arab viewers, and in particular, to the five million-strong Palestinian diaspora.

Critics of the idea believe it is premature and that before going global the priority should be improving local Palestinian television.

"It will provide us with an ongoing connection with Palestinians outside so that we can present the news clearly to them," says Hisham Mikki, director of broadcasting for the PBC.

Mikki is concerned that Palestinians abroad are being given "wrong" impressions of developments back home by two popular Arabic-language stations: MBC, which is owned by Saudi businessmen; and Jazira, which is owned by the Qatari government.

Both have a reputation for more free-wheeling and independent reporting than the government-run stations in the region, and they enjoy large audiences via satellite in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

To take on these two titans, the PA's station plans to feature hourly newscasts in Arabic, one English newscast a day, local news depicting "the achievements of the authority in the homeland," cultural programming, and soap opera and other series, both home-grown and imported from Egypt and Jordan.

Interview shows will be open to opposition figures, not just PA supporters. Mikki says, a practice, which, if applied consistently, would mark a departure from local Palestinian television.

"With an airport and a seaport [planned] and the satellite television, all of this gives us a type of sovereignty in advance of declaring our state during the final status," he said.

But Hanan Ashrawi, a Palestinian legislator, does not concur with the approach. "Most people look at it symbolically," she said. "But for me quality and substance is more important."

Ashrawi would rather wait until more resources are devoted to the project, including paying for top-notch producers and teams.

Referring to the current level of PBC television broadcasts, she said: "What I see now is not what we are capable of. We have people who are quite skilled, but we don't have the funds [to hire them].

"If they feel they are ready, fine, but I doubt it," Ashrawi said.

Iraq vows to fire at Western air patrols

BAGHDAD (Reuters) – Iraqi Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan said last night that Iraq would open fire at Western planes patrolling a no-fly zone in southern Iraq.

"We say it clearly, any violations of our air space cannot but be confronted by Iraqi fire," Ramadan told the Qatari al-Jazeera satellite television station.

Ramadan also said that UN weapons inspectors would never be allowed back after last week's US and British air raids.

"Now, and after the aggression ... the issue of the Special Commission and its inspections is finished and that is final," Ramadan said.

Earlier story, Page 5

Eilat man suspected of slitting his grandmother's throat

Twenty-five-year-old Uriyah Berger was remanded for 15 days Friday on suspicion of slitting the throat of his grandmother, Rivka Haim, 84, in her Eilat apartment.

Haim was found in serious condition several minutes later by a painter, who had come to the apartment to do renovations.

She was rushed by a Magen David Adom ambulance to hospital, where she was pronounced dead.

Berger was apprehended by police holding a knife. His clothes were also stained with his grandmother's blood.

About four hours after the killing, Eilat Magistrate's Court Judge Alexander Ron ordered Berger held for 15 days. Ron also ordered that he be sent for psychiatric observation.

Berger had arrived in Eilat a week earlier to live with his grandmother.

According to court papers, the murder occurred at 8:20 Friday morning. He grabbed a 30-centimeter-long knife and slit her throat.

While the suspect was said to have confessed to the slaying and to have reenacted it for police, his motive was unexplained.

Investigators have found only that Berger was in "difficult psychological circumstances" and had been undergoing psychiatric treatment before the murder.

The Haims are a prominent family in Eilat's music scene. The deceased's daughter, Racheli Haim, is a singer. Berger had also worked as a musician in some of the city's hotels.

But about two years ago he became religious and moved with his parents to Gush Katif.

(Itim)

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NEWS
in brief

Government rejects European censure
The Foreign Ministry said it rejected an incorrect statement by the European Union on Thursday concerning Israel's implementation of the Wye accords. The Foreign Ministry has instructed its representatives in the European Union capitals to explain that Israel is prepared to implement the accords while Palestinian violations have prevented the agreement's implementation. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

Tel Aviv man murdered
Tel Aviv police are investigating the murder of Eli Hacohen, 53, whose body was found by his daughter in an apartment in Rehov Yehuda Hamaccabi on Friday. Hacohen managed the Scandinavian airline desk at Ben Gurion Airport. He was hit on the head and stabbed to death in an apparent robbery, according to police. *Heidi J. Gleit*

Woman dies during childbirth
A 38-year-old woman from Ma'alot died at Nahariya Hospital yesterday morning while giving birth. The baby was extracted from her and was said to be in serious condition.
The hospital said the woman had arrived in good health, but apparently either had a blood clot or amniotic fluid entered her lungs. The hospital set up a committee to investigate and informed the Health Ministry. *Itim*

Clothes line saves toddler's life
A clothes line broke the fall of a two-year-old from a second floor window of an apartment building in Kiryat Malachi on Friday. The baby had been leaning on the bars of a window, when it suddenly opened. He hit a clothes line on the first floor before falling to the ground. A Magen David Adom ambulance took the boy to Kaplan Hospital in Rehovot, where his injuries were described as moderate. *Itim*

PM meeting with bereaved mothers postponed
A meeting between Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and two bereaved mothers, scheduled for Friday, was postponed at the Prime Minister's request after the mothers requested to meet cabinet ministers as well, his office said. A new date for the meeting will set in coordination the ministers wishing to attend the meeting. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

Injured soldier asks for e-mail
Alexey Yarmenko, 19, who lost both his legs in a Hizbullah blast in southern Lebanon in November, has made an appeal for persons to please write to him by e-mail.
Alexey is recuperating in Haifa's Rambam Hospital, and has a long road of painful recovery ahead of him.
He has received a computer as a gift and a free e-mail account, and has asked people to write to him about any topic to help him in his convalescence.
Alexey may be reached at Alexey1@netvision.net.il
Jerusalem Post Staff

New bank notes for the new year
The Bank of Israel announced Friday that redesigned banknotes will begin circulation from January 3. The first notes will carry NIS 20 and NIS 100 denominations. The NIS 50 and NIS 200 notes will be issued later. A NIS 500 banknote, with the portrait of Yitzhak Rabin, will also be issued. Old- style banknotes will be fully convertible until July 1 2000. Old banknotes may be freely redeemed until 31 December, 2005 at Bank of Israel branches in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. The new notes will also carry special markings for the blind. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

Ben-Ami to remain in Labor

By MICHAL YUDELMAN

Labor MK Shlomo Ben-Ami, who is scheduled to meet former chief of General Staff Amnon Lipkin-Shahak this week, said yesterday he is not about to leave Labor.

"I'm a member of the Labor Party, have been one even before party leader Ehud Barak was, and there's no reason for me to leave," Ben-Ami said in an interview on Channel 2.

"Barak has recently been elected and it is only decent to give him a chance to prove himself in the general elections," Ben-Ami said. "I've also met MK Dan Meridor. So has Barak. So what? Is he leaving Labor? These meetings don't mean we're leaving."

However, Ben-Ami said he was disappointed by Labor's failure since Barak's election as its leader to bring about the revolution required to accept and absorb different social groups in society.

Ben-Ami said "the center party is to a large extent a protest movement against Labor and the Likud for having failed to bring about that revolution."

Ben-Ami's name has been mentioned as one of a group of party MKs considering joining Shahak's party. Others considering leaving are MKs Haim Ramon, Nissim Zvilli, Haggai Merom and Avraham Burg.

These MKs have been holding talks with Shahak individually to decide on their futures.

Barak said he and Labor are the real center, calling the yet nonexistent center parties "atmosphere parties."


Ben-Ami: Disappointed by lack of change. (David Rubinger)

"We are the real center. Can you compare between the movement which founded this state and built it, defended it and strengthened it, to atmosphere parties, which are a collection of people from all over?" Barak asked on Channel 1's *Shabbat Game*.

Barak scoffed at the description of the center party as bringing "new faces" to the political arena, instead of the veteran politicians heading the large parties for years.

"I myself have hardly been in politics three years. Is that old? You say the new party has new faces, but the names mentioned as potential members are Haim Ramon, Burg and Zvilli. Those are hardly new faces, they're our people, who have been with us all along. Yet you accuse us of being a party with old faces and say the center party has new faces" Barak said.

Barak said that when elected prime minister he will change the order of priorities in the state. First on his order of priorities will be peace with the Arab countries, peace among the various communities in Israel and equal rights for Arabs.

Barak visited the Arab sector yesterday to wish the leaders of the Christian community in Haifa, Shfaram and Nazareth a happy Christmas.

He promised to bring "the Declaration of Independence's [promise of] equality to minorities down to the street, the schools, baby clinics and every minority center in Israel, to make every citizen aware of his and her rights."

Barak was accompanied by MKs Yossi Beilin, Nawaf Massalha, Micha Goldman, Yona Yahav, Haj Yihia, Eli Goldschmidt and Yossi Katz.



Shabbat demonstration
Holding a sign that it is 'a mitzva to combat religious coercion,' a demonstrator stands out in the rain yesterday with some 250 Jerusalemites to defend Aroma, a coffee shop on Emek Refaim in the German Colony which recently decided to open on Shabbat. Last Saturday dozens of haredim heckled the cafe-goers, shouting, pushing, and throwing eggs. (Text: Amy Klein; Photo: Flash 90/Courtesy Ma'ariv)

Wounded border policeman dies 3 years after raid

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Border policeman Staff Sgt. Doron Ben-Zichri, 26, died Thursday night from wounds sustained during a raid on a terrorist hideout in Hebron in June 1995.

Ben-Zichri, a member of the special anti-terrorist unit, stormed the hideout of Taher Kapisha, a member of a Hebron Hamas cell who murdered at least six Israelis in drive-by shootings. Acting on intelligence information Ben-Zichri's unit surrounded a house in Ras Jura, some two kilometers from Kiryat Arba, at dawn. Kapisha refused to surrender and fired shots at the border policemen, hitting Ben-Zichri in the head. Kapisha was shot by troops as he attempted to flee.

Kapisha's cell was considered responsible for killing at least six Israelis over a one-year period: Margalit Ruth Shohat and Rafael Yairi on May 17, 1994, and Rabbi Amiram Olami on November 27, 1994, in attacks near Beit Haggai, Sarit Prigal near Kiryat Arba on July 7, 1994 and Nahum Hoss and Yehuda Partosh in an attack on Bus No. 160 near Glass Square on March 20,1995.

The cell was also held responsible for wounding several soldiers in shooting attacks on vehicles, and for the attempted kidnapping of a settler near Alon Shvut.

Border Police spokesman Yehoshua Bauer said Ben-Zichri remained unconscious until his death.

"He was treated at Hadassah Hospital - Ein Kerem and then transferred to Beit Levinstein and later to the Horev Medical Center where he died." Bauer said Ben-Zichri joined the unit after completing his military service and had served in the unit for 18 months before his injury.

Ben-Zichri will be buried in the Nahariya Cemetery's military section today at 1.00.

CORRECTION
The article on Terra Sancta in Friday's magazine mistakenly describes the Emir Abdullah as the father of King Hussein instead of Hussein's grandfather.

Four dead in weekend road accidents

Two drivers, a third man and a cyclist were killed, while seven people were injured in six accidents over the weekend.

The death toll on the roads last week was 16 dead and 918 injured, 18 seriously, in 693 accidents, according to Magen David Adom figures.

Hila Geva, 20, died when her car swerved into the opposite lane of a road near Beit Yehoshua and collided with an oncoming truck. The truck driver was slightly injured.

A 37-year-old driver ran over and killed a cyclist yesterday on the Geha road near Morasha Junction. The 25-year-old cyclist, from Romania, was killed instantly. The driver was arrested.

In a second accident on the same road yesterday, Ronen Peretz, 26, was killed when another driver turning right swerved from his lane and crashed into Peretz' car at the Bar-Ilan Bridge.

Near Nazareth, one man was killed and two others were injured last night in an accident at a road junction. Police are investigating the cause.

On the Beersheba-Netivot road Friday, four were injured, one of them seriously, in a collision between two cars.

A foreign worker was seriously injured Friday night in a road accident close to Modi'in, when a car hit him as he was crossing the road at a red traffic light. (Itim)

Katyusha victim loses second premature baby

By DAVID RUDGE

Keren Hevroni, who lost one of two fetuses she was carrying after suffering from shock in the Katyusha rocket attacks on Kiryat Shmona last Wednesday, lost the second one yesterday.

Doctors and staff at Safed's Rebecca Sieff Hospital tried in vain to save the twins, who were born more than three months prematurely.

One died within 20 minutes and the other yesterday.

Hevroni was staying with her husband and the rest of her family at her parents home in Kiryat Shmona when the building sustained a direct hit by a rocket.

She was knocked to the ground and later felt ill.

Hevroni, who was in her sixth month of pregnancy, was taken to the hospital with severe pains, and doctors said she was in labor.

It is believed that the blow and subsequent trauma that she suffered from the Katyusha blast probably caused her to go into labor.

"She was already in a very late phase of labor when she was admitted to the hospital, and there was nothing that could be done except prepare for delivery," said Dr. Calin Shapira, deputy director of the hospital. "One of the twins survived for about 20 minutes after the premature birth and then died. The other survived in the intensive care unit of the premature babies department until this [Saturday] morning. Everything possible was done to try and save them, especially the second baby, but at only 700 grams and three months premature, nature unfortunately proved stronger than our best efforts."

The condition of Rafi Amram, who was hit in the chest by shrapnel when a rocket hit Kibbutz Kfar Blum's carpentry shop, was said yesterday to have improved.

Shapira said Amram was extremely lucky, and the piece of shrapnel had passed through his chest and lodged behind his shoulder blade without damaging the lungs or cutting major arteries.

Amram has been transferred from an intensive care unit to a surgical ward and has been able to get out of bed and move around a bit.

The Grapes of Wrath monitoring group convened at UNIFIL headquarters in Nakoura last night in what was described as an emergency session because of the fighting last week.

The five-nation committee – with representatives from the US, France, Israel, Syria and Lebanon – was established to supervise the understandings reached at the end of Operation Grapes of Wrath in April 1996.

The group met to discuss Israel's complaint over Hizbullah's Katyusha rocket barrage on Galilee.

Lebanon lodged a protest over the death of a woman and six of her children in an IAF raid near Janta village in the northern part of Lebanon's Beka'a Valley the previous day.

Israel apologized at the time for the civilian deaths, stressing that the farmhouse in which the woman and her children were killed had been hit by accident.

Hizbullah retaliated by launching the concentrated Katyusha barrage on Wednesday, wounding 16 people, most of the lightly. Damage was done to 250 apartments, public and private buildings. Cost assessments were still underway.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu has reportedly promised to extend additional budgets allocated to confrontation line communities after Operation Grapes of Wrath, as well as tax breaks for residents, for another three years.

Over the weekend long-range mortar attacks were reported on IDF and South Lebanese Army positions. There were no casualties or damage and IDF gunners returned fire.

A senior member of the South Lebanese Army's security apparatus, Ghassan Daher, was assassinated in Sheba village in the foothills of Mt. Hermon early yesterday morning.

He was apparently shot while travelling with his family in the village. By last night no group had claimed responsibility for the attack. It was not clear whether if it was motivated by a personal vendetta or carried out by Hizbullah or another hostile organization.

LEBANON
Continued from Page 1

The official added that reports that Netanyahu would begin a withdrawal before elections so as to garner more electoral support were "illogical," because, he said, a majority of the population is against a unilateral withdrawal.

Labor MK Yossi Beilin, the pioneer of the unilateral pullout option, said that if Netanyahu were to order a withdrawal as an electoral gimmick, then it would be "a very welcome gimmick indeed."

Beilin added, however, that he believed a staged withdrawal was the worst solution and would serve as "an invitation to pressure and violence."

The right thing to do, said Beilin, would be to set a date and redeploy completely. He maintained that a growing percentage of the public supported this proposal.

A spokesman for Sharon said that the foreign minister was not planning to raise his proposal before the security cabinet today and that the "attempt to portray the proposal as an electoral move... was pure evil."

Labor Party leader Ehud Barak said on Channel 1 last night that if he is elected prime minister he would resume negotiations with Syria to facilitate a solution to the Lebanon problem, including the possibility of a gradual withdrawal.

"When there is trust, both sides understand that an unnecessary war between them will not benefit anybody. We have to find a way to protect Israel's interests and reach an arrangement with the Syrians," Barak said. "This is the way to solve the Lebanon problem, with a deep, fundamental solution."

Channel 1 also quoted Mohammed Raed, a Lebanese parliament member from Hizbullah, as saying that there were various methods by which the organization could "chase the enemy after it withdrew" from the security zone.

According to Raed, Hizbullah would force Israel to "pay for its crimes during the course of its presence in Lebanon."

LIKUD
Continued from Page 1

He also accused the media of a conspiracy of silence regarding the huge mobilization against him, adding that certain senior media people have admitted as much.

"[There were stories] I was a CIA agent, huge magazines of smears against me were published," Netanyahu said.

He noted however that the media's exaggeration and lies have had a boomerang reaction, adding "so continue."

MKs Binyamin Begin and Dan Meridor are not expected to be at this evening's committee meeting, since they withdrew from the party last week.

Hanegbi, who chairs the committee, is expected to propose an agreed resolution, to hold balloting for the party leadership on January 25. A second round, if necessary, would be held on February 4.

The primaries for the Likud's Knesset candidates is to be held on February 6.

Meridor, who is acting to form a center party, is having difficulty bringing Ronni Milo, MK together with Alex Lubotzky of The Third Way and Meimad leader Rabbi Michael Melchior. The latter two are repelled by Milo's anti-haredi statements. Meridor himself is reportedly less than pleased with two of Amnon Lipkin-Shahak's aides, Shimon Sheves and Yossi Ginossar, both former Laborites.

Netanyahu's deputy bureau chief, Ruchama Avraham, has decided not to run for a place on the Likud list.

Avraham, who had reportedly been considering resigning to enter politics, said yesterday that she would continue working in Netanyahu's office to "assist him in moving forward his agenda for Israel."

Meretz leader Yossi Sarid said yesterday that opposite the three center parties – Labor, the Likud and the new party – only Meretz would represent the Left openly and proudly. Meretz's council is to convene today to decide on a date and system for holding primaries.

Last week the party's executive recommended that the 3,000-member Meretz convention choose the faction's Knesset candidates, mainly due to a lack of time to organize primaries.

Danna Harman contributed to this report.

With deep sorrow we mourn the passing of our beloved
GISELA ROTHSCHILD ז"ל
The wife of the late **Dr. Fritz Rothschild.**
The funeral will take place on Sunday, December 27, 1998 at 2 p.m., at the Kiryat Shaul Cemetery.
The shiva will be held at the home of the deceased, 8 Epstein St., Tel Aviv.
Her son: **Michael Rothschild and Teresa**
Her granddaughters: **Dina Collins and Simon,** Vancouver B.C.
Shira Moir Smith and Roger, Vancouver B.C.

We deeply mourn the passing of
SUSI SARAH SIEGMAN ע"ה
and extend sincere condolences to our dear chavera
Esther Halpern and all her family
Pnina Herzog President
Rena Schondorf National President
Hana Melamed Chairman
Roslyn Schneidman Exec. Vice President
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Young Zionist leaders meet

Avraham Burg, chairman of the World Zionist Organization and Jewish Agency, speaks at the opening session of the Second World Zionist Congress for Youth over the weekend with members from the presidium of the first such congress. Pictured with Burg from left to right: David Peer, Shirley Silbershatz, Marelo Shechtman and Michael Rosenfeld. (Joe Malcolm)

Wiesenthal against Holocaust shrine

Says proposed German memorial inappropriate

By PAUL GEITNER

BERLIN (AP) – Stepping into Germany's debate over whether to build a national Holocaust memorial, Nazi-hunter Simon Wiesenthal said he believes a stone monument is not the right way to remember the murder of six million Jews.

"The Holocaust has too many faces for a memorial," he said in an interview to be published today in the *Welt am Sonntag* newspaper.

"In any case, remembrance is not only about the dead, but above all with the life that was destroyed. Therefore I'm also against a Holocaust memorial in Berlin."

For the past decade, Germany has been debating building a Holocaust memorial on a giant plot of government-donated land in the heart of Berlin. Construction was supposed to begin next year, when the federal government starts its move from Bonn back to its historic capital.

But the defeat of project backer Helmut Kohl by skeptic Gerhard Schroeder in September's elections has thrown the memorial into doubt. Schroeder wants to let parliament decide how to proceed next year.

This month, his new culture chief, Michael Naumann, proposed scrapping plans for a massive monument in favor of a Holocaust museum, research center and memorial garden.

Schroeder has praised Naumann's idea as more educational, but some German Jewish have criticized it as not powerful enough and as an excuse not to have a memorial.

The chairman of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, Ignatz Bubis, notes that Germany already has museums in former concentration camps and a documentation center at the site of the former SS and Gestapo headquarters in Berlin.

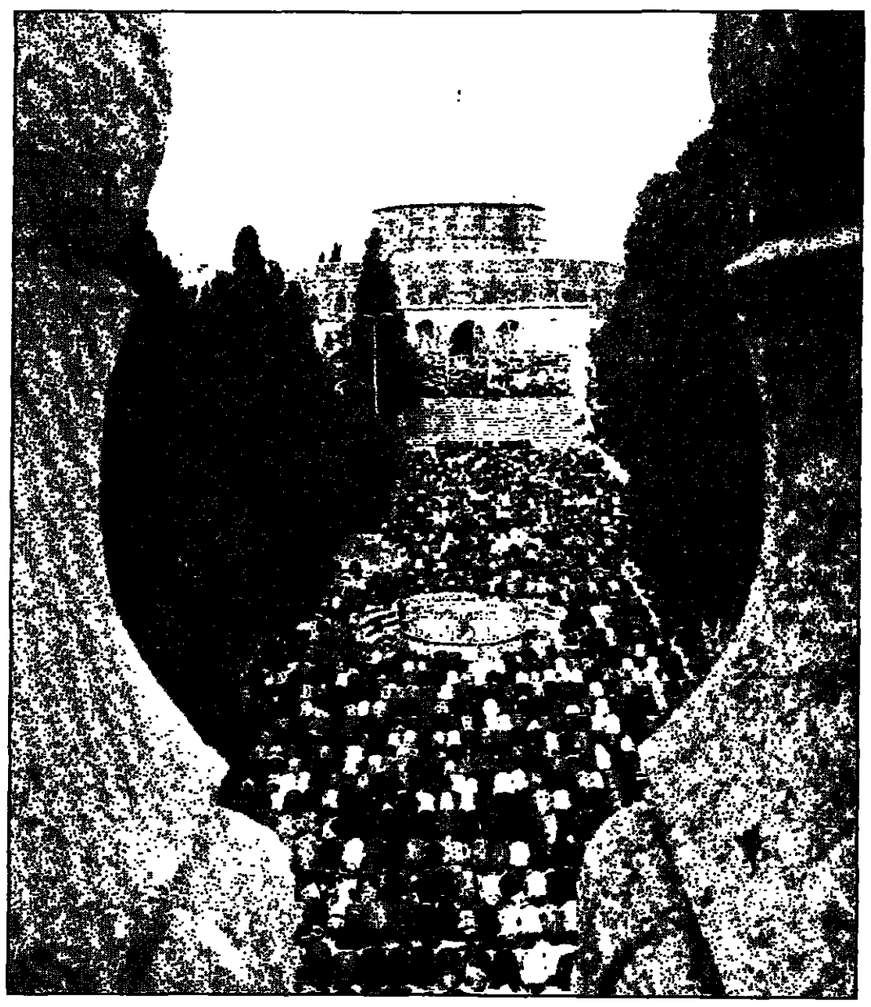
"You can either build the memorial or don't build it, but one shouldn't hide behind a museum," he told the *Sueddeutsche Zeitung*, a Munich-based newspaper, in a weekend interview.

But one of Germany's best-known writers, Stefan Heym, spoke out against a memorial in an interview in the new *Der Spiegel* newsmagazine.

Referring to the leading design, a cemetery-like field of about 2,500 stone pillars, Heym said building it would "create a giant installation for dogs, who'll poop there." Heym, a Jew who fled the Nazis in 1933 and joined the US Army, suggested instead building a school "where history can be taught."

Wiesenthal did not make a specific proposal.

"That's a matter of feeling," he said. "In any case nothing out of stone. Jewish memorials were never out of stone or wood or iron. They were out of paper. Our memorials are books, for example. Not for nothing are we called the people of books."



Ramadan prayers in Jerusalem

An estimated 180,000 people take part in prayers held on the first Friday of the holy Moslem month of Ramadan, at the Al Aqsa Mosque compound. Under heavy police presence, the prayers passed without incident. (AP)

Fatah to stage anti-Israel protests

Dahlan concerned that Netanyahu will expand settlements before elections

By LAMIA LAHOUD

Mohammed Dahlan, the Palestinian Authority's Gaza Preventive Security Chief, says that he is concerned that Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu will expand settlements and build at Har Homa to gain votes from the right, in the coming election campaign.

The PA, he said, will have to take measures against such moves and he believes that PA Chairman Yasser Arafat will ask the Americans to intervene in such a situation. He declined comment on what position the PA will take in the event of new clashes over issues such as Palestinian prisoners or settlement expansion.

Fatah has already said it will organize demonstrations for the release of political prisoners and to protest settlement expansion and land confiscation.

Fatah is eager to stage anti-Israel protests now to preempt Hamas attempts later to gain influence.

PA officials admit privately that they face a dilemma: They want to please the US by fulfilling their commitments in the Wye accord. They also want to prevent terror attacks by Hamas which they fear will play into Netanyahu's hands. But they do not want to prevent riots which are a response to Israel's freeze on redeployment.

One PA official who asked to remain anonymous, said, "We do not want to help Netanyahu in his election campaign, by keeping the Palestinians quiet when he violates the agreement." That, he said, would only reinforce his election slogan that he can achieve security without Israeli concessions.

Dahlan did not want to comment on claims by the Labor party that the PA had promised to delay its declaration of independence if Labor wins the elections. "It is too early to tell what we will do about May 4th," he said. "We will wait and see how things will develop," he concluded.



Dahlan: Arafat will ask for US intervention. (B. Hendler)

Dahlan told *The Jerusalem Post* that he did not want to comment on which of the candidates he prefers, but was optimistic that early elections will produce a new government that can implement the peace agreement.

"Any candidate who is committed to the implementation of the Oslo agreement is good for us," he said from his home in Gaza.

Dahlan said that Hamas may use the pre-election period to try and carry out attacks against Israelis but insisted the PA is committed to preventing Hamas and others from carrying out any terror attacks.

In the meantime, he will continue to confiscate illegal arms and arrest Palestinian fugitives, as agreed in the Wye accords, "not because Israel demands it of us but because it serves the PA's interest." According to Dahlan, the degree of PA-Israeli security cooperation depends on Israel's attitude.

Homes near shooting ranges face stray bullet threat

By AMY KLEIN

If you live near a shooting range, take cover. That's what Beit Shemesh resident Ida Benari concluded when a stray bullet burst through her service porch just minutes after she left the room on Tuesday.

"I heard what sounded like metal clanging, and I thought it was the washing machine or the kids playing," said Benari. Instead, what she found on the carpet was a bullet which had ricocheted off the metal laundry bars, through the open window and into her wall, chipping the cement.

Benari's second-floor apartment lies some 350 meters south of the municipality's shooting range, where the Beit Shemesh police happened to be practicing at the time the bullet burst into Benari's life. Police investigators submitted the 9-mm bullet – the same type used at the shooting range – to criminal ballistics.

This is the second stray-bullet incident reported from the Migdal Hamayim neighborhood this year.

Beit Shemesh municipality spokesman Yehuda Gur-Aryeh thinks it's unlikely the bullets came from their shooting range. "It's not logical because the guns' range only reaches 300 meters," he said. Gur-Aryeh said he will let the police determine where the bullets were fired from.

Jerusalem police spokesman Shmuel Ben-Ruby said the range has been closed and will remain so until the police find the source of the bullets.

The range, named after Yonatan Netanyahu, is run by the municipality and used by police, teachers, civil guard workers and private practice.

"Sometimes people complain [about bullets] because they don't like the noise," Gur-Aryeh said, citing a false complaint from a Rehovot resident.

But this theory doesn't explain the source of the bullet fired into Benari's home or into neighboring apartments. Benari said the police photographer told her he had photographed a stray bullet at the apartment next door a few years ago.

And last August, a bullet flew throught the window of an apartment which lies between the firing range and Benari's building. "I heard a terrible noise, and saw the bullet crash through the shutters; it landed on the carpet near my three children," said Anat Vanunu. The police ballistics expert told her it couldn't have come from the Netanyahu firing range.

"They shut it then too, but didn't come up with any conclusions," said Vanunu. "What are they waiting for? Someone to get hurt, someone to die? The people who practice there, after all, don't know how to aim. The range is not safe enough."

The Ministry of the Interior grants operating licenses to shooting ranges. Amit Ya'acov, director of the weapon licensing division, said there are 101 licensed ranges, belonging to municipalities and private owners. A license can only be obtained after the police have ensured the facilities' safety from inside and out.

Police oversee the shooting ranges to prevent dangers to citizens who live nearby, said Uzi Sanduri, Israel Police assistant spokesman. "I can't recall any case where a person was actually hit by a stray bullet from a firing range," Sanduri said.

Emanuel Ben-Amram, director of Olympia, a national olympic range in Herzliya, said that increased urbanization is another problem for shooting ranges. Each month about 2,500 customers practice on Olympia's range for both defense and sport purposes. "Beit Shemesh's range was built before the neighborhood. It's the town that's moving closer to the range, not the other way around," he said.

Located within about one kilometer of Beit Shemesh's firing range, is the Migdal Hamayim community, with schools built within the last three years.

"There's a movement to close down shooting ranges because the residents don't like the noise, but where are this country's 250,000 gun owners going to practice?" Ben-Amram said.

The shooting range in Rishon Lezion was closed three years ago due to complaints from residents of Ramat Eliyahu, a newer neighborhood built long after the range.

Ben-Amram's Olympia once had similar complaints from Herzliya residents. But they went underground, building a 20-dunam subterranean range, at a cost of NIS 6 million.

"I think that's the solution," Ben-Amram said. "The question is, can the municipalities afford it?"

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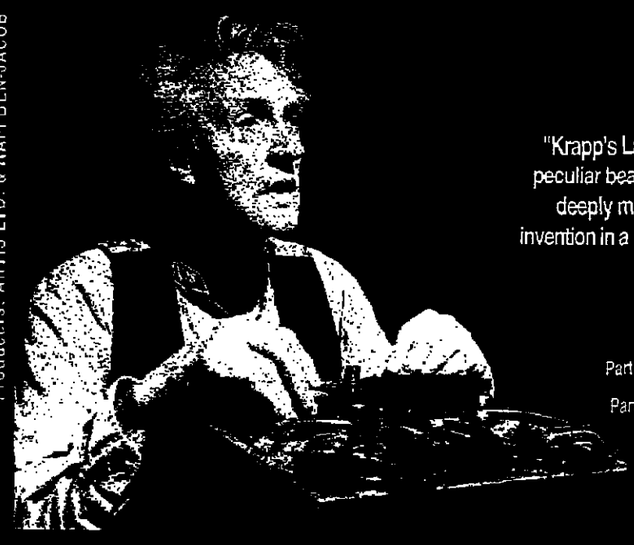
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Cold spell kills 30 in US

Thousands without power

By SARA OLKON

NEW YORK (AP) – Ice storms that crippled electrical service throughout the southern US left thousands shivering through Christmas, and utility crews raced to rewire their customers today.

While more freezing rain was not in the forecast, the South - and most of the US - was expected to continue under a cold snap already blamed for at least 30 deaths.

"If they named winter storms the way they named hurricanes, they could name this one the Grinch," said Kurt Pickering of the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency.

About 54,000 electric customers in the state were still without power Friday night.

The worst outages struck Virginia, where 1,100 crewmen worked Christmas Day to restore power.

At least 197,000 customers remained without electricity Friday night.

Slick roads were blamed for many deaths in recent days, including six in Alabama, six in Virginia and two in South Carolina. Many airports also suffered delays or cancellations.

About 20,000 power customers in North Carolina were still in the dark Friday night. Most tried to make the most of Christmas and the sudden entrance of winter.

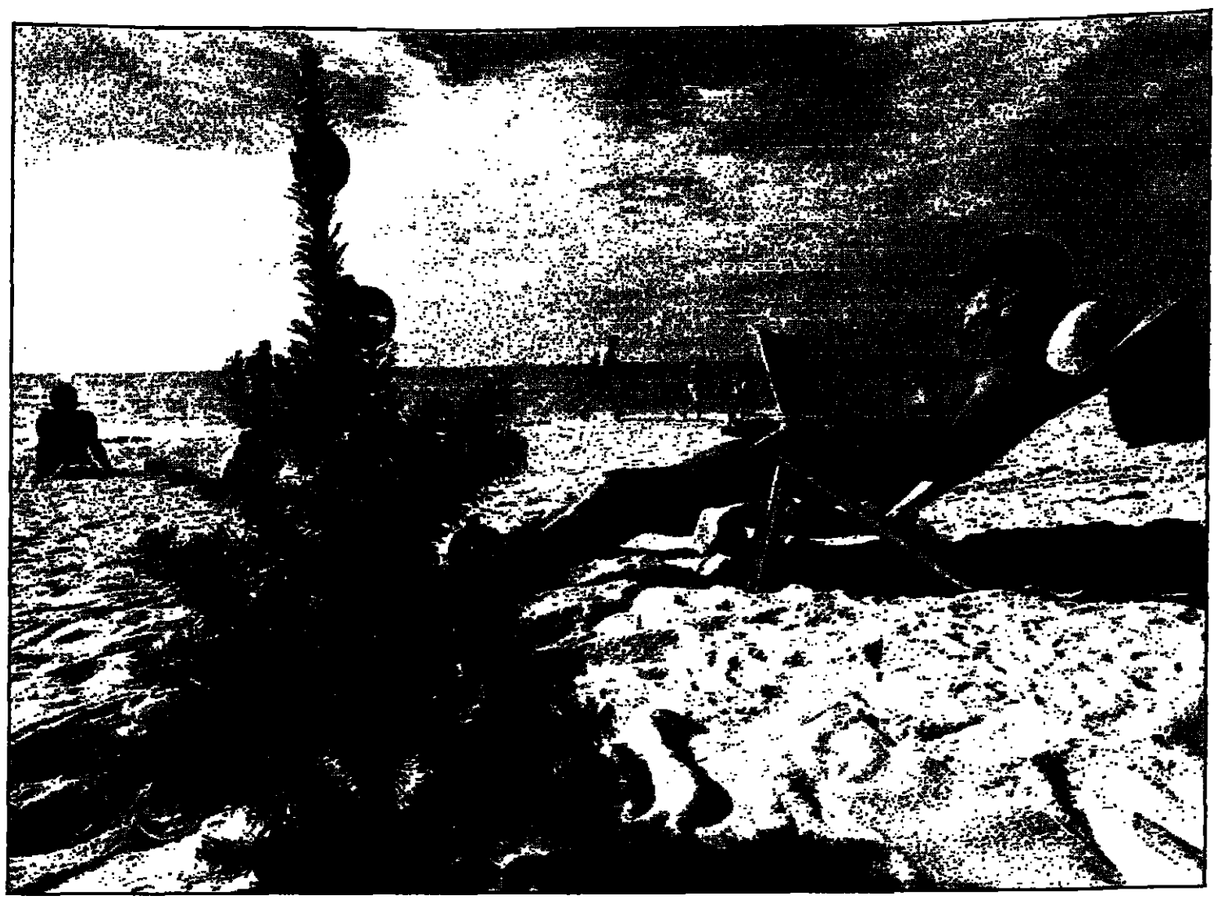
Marilyn Henry adds:

Eight people were killed and the other 15 passengers – mostly Russian Jewish immigrants or elderly Jews from Brooklyn – were injured when a charter bus plunged into a ravine Thursday on a New Jersey highway, bound for Atlantic City for the glitter of gambling.

Twenty-two men and women boarded the bus for a day trip to a dozen casinos, 225 kilometers away. The passengers were predominantly Jewish because it was Christmas Eve.

The Russian driver, who was injured, was Valerie Viner.

He told police that he had braked suddenly and veered when he spotted a patch of ice on the highway last Thursday, the first day this winter that snow fell in the metropolitan New York area.



Dexter Cole sunbathes on balmy St. Pete Beach on Christmas Day in Pass-a-Grille, Florida, together with his Christmas tree. (AP)

Cardinal: Christmas Day brought joy to Cuba

By PASCAL FLETCHER

HAVANA (Reuters) – Cuban Cardinal Jaime Ortega has said that the restored Christmas holiday had brought joy to the country's people and he urged them to preserve the day as one of faith and family love free from commercialization.

Ortega, archbishop of Havana and leader of Cuba's Catholics, made the plea Friday in a special 15-minute Christmas message broadcast on a minor state radio station.

Cuba's communist authorities, which control the media, had given special authorization for the broadcast on Radio Musical Nacional, one of the island's less widely heard stations which normally plays classical music.

"This is a great joy for the Church and for the Cuban people," Ortega said in his broadcast.

"Now let us hope that it won't be the commercial tinkling of an imported Santa Claus that announces Christmas in Cuba," he said in an apparent criticism of commercialization surrounding Christmas in some countries.

After abolishing the December 25 holiday in late 1969 to concentrate national efforts on the strategic sugar harvest, Cuba's communist government this month officially restored Christmas Day to the national public holiday calendar.

Pope seeks international ban on death penalty

By PHILIP PULLELLA

VATICAN CITY (Reuters) – Pope John Paul called for a ban on the death penalty around the world and said that senseless violence and abuse of human dignity had blurred the joy of the Christmas season for many people.

The Pope's specific appeal Friday in his "Urbi et Orbi" (to the city and the world) Christmas message for the abolishment of capital punishment was significant because it came a month before a trip to the United States, where 500 convicted killers have been executed since the death penalty was reinstated in 1976.

The 78-year-old Pope also voiced concern about the "tormented situation" in the Middle East and denounced those responsible for war crimes and genocide.

He then wished the world a happy Christmas in 58 languages, including Hebrew, Arabic, Albanian and other tongues spoken in some of the world's trouble spots.

Leading his one-billion-member Church in the 21st Christmas season of his historic pontificate, the Roman Catholic leader said the serenity expressed in Christmas carols was in strident contrast with the world's many problems.

Addressing a crowd of tens of thousands of people from the central balcony of St Peter's Basilica, he spoke of "tragic situations, which often involve human guilt and even malice, soaked in fratricidal hate and senseless violence."

The pontiff, whose address was televised live to millions of people in 45 countries, prayed that the light coming from Christ's birthplace could save humanity from distress.

"May the proclamation of Christmas be a source of encouragement to all those who work to bring relief to the tormented situation in the Middle East by respecting international commitments," said the pope, who appeared tired as he addressed the crowd.

"May Christmas help to strengthen and renew, throughout the world, the consensus concerning the need for urgent and adequate measures to halt the production of arms, to defend human life, to ban the death penalty...," added the pontiff, who was wearing resplendent gold, green and white vestments.

Later, in unprepared remarks to a crowd of Italians in St Peter's Square holding banners against capital punishment, the Pope said: "I repeat my appeal to defend human life and ban the death penalty." In his 1995 encyclical "The Gospel of Life," the Pope said modern means of punishing, repressing and preventing crime had made cases where the death penalty was necessary "very rare, if practically non-existent."

But Friday was one of his most unequivocal and unqualified calls ever for an end to the death penalty. The pope will hold talks with President Clinton in St Louis on January 26.

Earlier this month the Missouri supreme court postponed a planned execution that had been scheduled for the day after the pope's meeting with Clinton in St. Louis.

The United States in the only Western democracy to practice capital punishment. Its prisons hold 3,500 men and women under sentence of death.

The pope said the spirit of Christmas also should prompt people to take measures "to restrain the bloodied hand of those responsible for genocide and crimes of war, to give environmental issues ... the indispensable attention which they deserve for the protection of creation and of human dignity."

Although sadness and violence rang out and echoed from one hemisphere of the globe to the other, all the joy of Christmas had to prevail over pessimism.

"May the joy of Christmas, which sings of the birth of the Savior, instill all trust in the power of truth and of patient perseverance in doing good," he said.

After reading his message in Italian, the pope read his Christmas greetings in 58 languages, including Croatian, Serbian, Russian, Turkish, Armenian, Hindi, Tamil, Swahili, Chinese and Maori.

He also issued a "special" greeting to Kurds in the crowd.

The pope's health has been declining visibly in recent years but close aides say he is determined to lead his church into the third millennium of Christianity.

Friday was the third year running that the pope, heeding doctors ordered to conserve his strength, has not celebrated a Christmas Day morning mass.

At a Christmas eve mass in St Peter's Basilica last night, the pope made it clear that he was aware that he may not be able to fulfill his millennium dream.

British supermarket in holiday opening stir

LONDON (Reuters) – British supermarket group J. Sainsbury opened two of its stores on Christmas, provoking outrage from church leaders and demonstrators but attracting more than 2,000 shoppers, newspapers reported yesterday.

The *Daily Mail* quoted the company as saying the shopper turnout had exceeded expectations and posed a strong case for opening more branches next year.

Such a move would no doubt be followed by other supermarket chains, the newspaper said.

"There was overwhelming demand," Sainsbury spokeswoman Kelly Flynn was quoted as saying. "Britain is a multi-cultural society and there are many people for whom Christmas means nothing. We didn't have to drag customers in."

Sainsbury's opened stores in west London and in Headcorn in the southeastern county of Kent.

At Headcorn, about a dozen protesters carried placards saying "No trading on Christmas Day. Keep it Sacred" and "Don't let commerce destroy Christmas."

The *Times* quoted Marion Kent, a Methodist minister for five churches in the county, as saying: "It is such a shame that on a day when we remember probably the most famous family in history, that families and friends won't be able to be together."

Shopper Richard Whitley, 31, told the *Daily Mail* he had dashed in for some salad. "I wouldn't be here if I didn't agree with it," he said.

Queen bridges generation gap in message to nation

By PAUL MAJENDI

LONDON (Reuters) – Queen Elizabeth bridged the generation gap Friday with a warm-hearted Christmas message that sought to give the British monarchy a more caring image.

"It is not always easy for those in their teens or twenties to believe that someone of my age, of the older generation might have something useful to say to them," the 72-year-old monarch told television viewers in 50 Commonwealth countries around the world.

The queen has been eager for the House of Windsor to modernize and learn the lessons from the death of Princess Diana which provoked a backlash against the monarchy.

Often accused of being an unfeeling mother who put duty to the nation first, she rejoiced in the 50th birthday of her son and heir, Prince Charles.

"It is hard to believe that a half century has passed since our son was christened," she said.

Her son's fairytale marriage to Diana ended in an acrimonious divorce and then Diana's death in a Paris car crash.

"The older I get the more conscious I become of the difficulties young people have to face as they learn to live in the modern world... We can caution and comfort if things go wrong or guide and explain if we are needed."

Nine die at Peru party

LIMA (Reuters) – Nine young revelers died at a Christmas party in Lima early Friday when a tear gas canister thrown into an overcrowded nightclub sparked a stampede, police said.

The victims, aged between 12 and 21, were crushed to death or suffocated as about 250 party-goers celebrating Christmas at the Suarez nightclub on the poor outskirts of the city tried to flee the choking gas.

Police said another eight people were badly injured in the club which was filled to double its capacity for Peru's traditional Christmas Eve celebrations when thousands of young people go to late-night parties and take to the streets with fireworks.

Police said they did not know who threw the tear gas canister.

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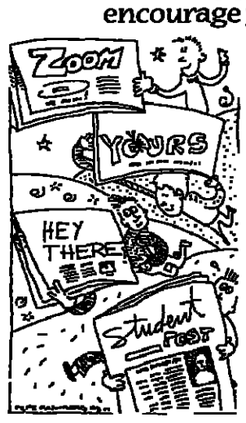
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Kosovo clashes wane after troops withdraw

By ADRIAN DASCALU

PRISTINA, Serbia (Reuters) –Some Serbian troops have withdrawn from the site of recent fierce fighting in Kosovo and international observers said yesterday they hoped a newly secured ceasefire would hold.

"So far so good," said William Walker, head of the international Kosovo Verification Mission, who went to the conflict zone in the north of the province on Friday to talk to the Serbian troops and their ethnic Albanian rebel foes.

"We will only know if no one starts to shoot at each other. I've got some hope," he said yesterday.

The fighting that broke out on Thursday in Lapastica, west of the northern town of Podujevo, was the worst since a truce was established in October when NATO threatened air strikes on Serbia unless it withdrew most combat forces from Kosovo.

The clashes followed a military build-up in the separatist southern province which US diplomats said included the return of forces Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic had agreed to withdraw to avert the air strike threat.

"After the talks, our observers reported that some of the military vehicles were pulled out and it seems that most of the armor was taken to the airfield south of Podujevo," said Jorgen Grunnet, spokesman for the monitoring mission.

"We don't think all were pulled out but several APCs (armored personnel carriers) and tanks were gathered near the airport. There have been no reports of shooting today ... This is very positive development."

At least nine people were reported killed and two wounded in Thursday's violence. Walker said the clashes had increased his concern for the safety of the hundreds of monitors in Kosovo, who are unarmed.

Ethnic Albanian separatist guerrillas accused Serbian forces of launching an unprovoked offensive against several villages and said the attack had made a nonsense of the guerrillas' policy of "self-restraint" announced in October.

The political representative of the Kosovo Liberation Army guerrillas said yesterday that did not signal the KLA would now go on the offensive.

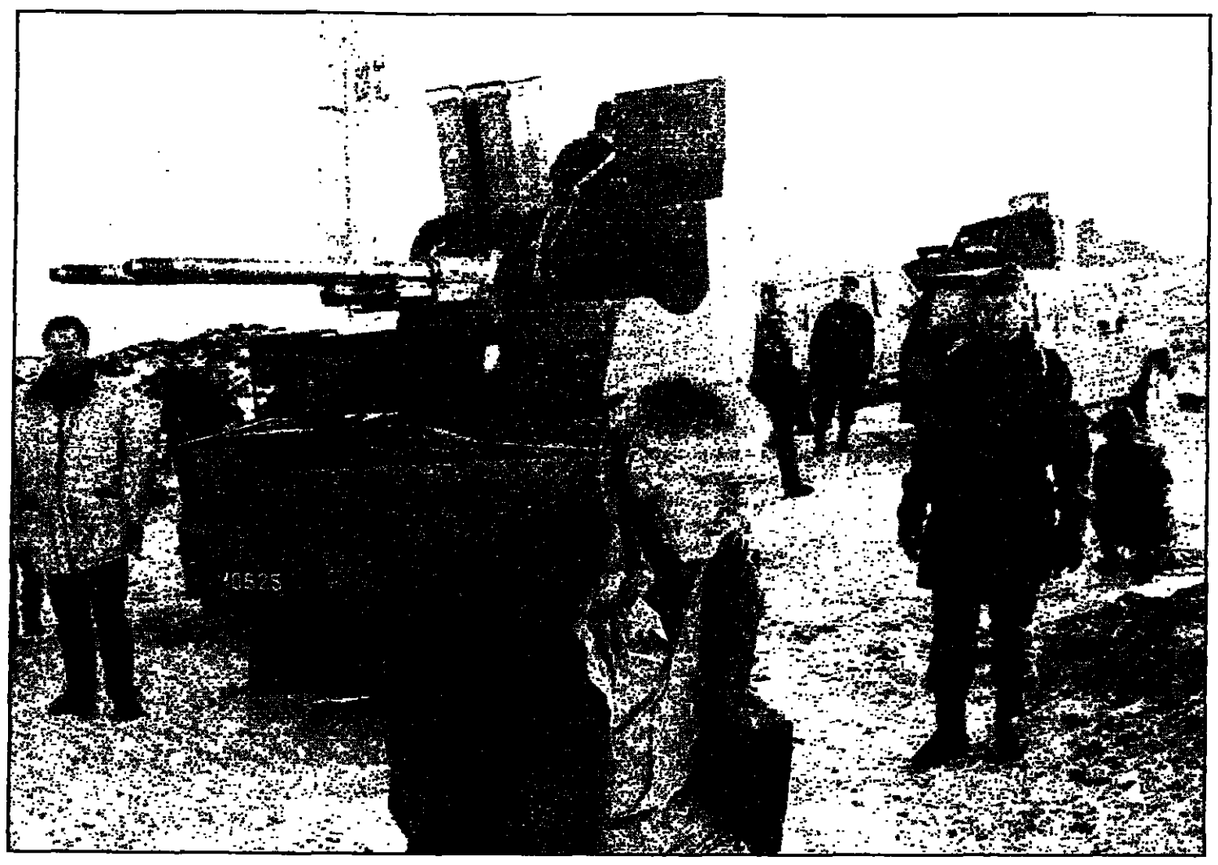
"This does not mean the KLA will launch any actions, but that it will defend itself if attacked," Demaci said, according to the Belgrade independent newspaper *Blic*.

But he hinted at continued obstacles within the ethnic Albanian camp to progress in efforts to secure a political settlement for the province, in which 2,000 people were killed and a quarter of a million driven from their homes this year.

US mediators have tried to rally the KLA behind negotiations on an autonomy deal for Kosovo, where the ethnic Albanian majority is seeking independence from Serbia. But the KLA is at odds with moderate political leader Ibrahim Rugova.

Demaci scoffed at suggestions by Rugova that he had influence over the KLA, according to *Blic*.

"Rugova, as usual, is saying all kinds of things, but that has no impact," it quoted Demaci as saying.



William Walker, the US diplomat who heads the team of international verifiers in Kosovo, observes Serbian military positions nears Podujevo, 30 kilometers north of Pristina on Friday. (AP)

Iraq reports clash with Western warplanes

By HASSAN HAFIDH

BAGHDAD (Reuters) – Iraq said its air defenses fired at Western planes attacking a post in southern Iraq yesterday in the first reported clash since a US and British air campaign ended a week ago.

"This morning formations of enemy planes ... attacked one of our air defense positions which confronted them and forced them to drop their load indiscriminately," an Iraqi military spokesman, quoted by the Iraqi News Agency (INA), said.

The Iraqi armed forces usually use the term "confronted" to mean firing anti-aircraft weapons. It was the first time Iraq had said it fired at Western planes since the four-day blitz by US and British forces.

The spokesman did not say exactly where the incident took place but said the planes, flying in from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, had violated the Iraqi airspace yesterday morning. He said the first wave of "the crows" flew outside the range of anti-aircraft guns.

US, British and French planes, based in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, patrol a no-fly zone in southern Iraq to prevent Baghdad from threatening its Shi'ite Moslem population.

The Iraqi army said Tuesday that Western aircraft had fired two rockets near the southern city of Basra. The United States and Britain quickly denied the report.

Iraqi state media later released pictures and film footage of what it said showed the aftermath of two rockets fired Tuesday at air defense targets near Basra.

It was not possible to verify that the rockets were fired Tuesday or during the air campaign.

The army said Thursday Western planes violated Iraq's southern airspace for a third straight day but did not report any exchanges of fire.

Iraq has claimed victory in last week's confrontations, but said the "aggression" continued and it remained on alert. The US and Britain said they halted the raids after they achieved their target of containing President Saddam Hussein.

Iraq's Parliament Speaker Saadoun Hammadi left Baghdad for Amman yesterday to attend a meeting of Arab parliamentarians called to discuss the raids.

Hammadi said Iraq would ask today's meeting to agree to breaking UN sanctions and making the United States and Britain accountable for the attacks.

"We will ask the meeting to adopt resolutions committing Arab governments to break the embargo on Iraq," INA quoted Hammadi as saying.

Reports: Westerners' bodies found in Chechnya

MOSCOW (Reuters) – A Chechen official said yesterday the bodies of four Western hostages, whose severed heads were found in Russia's rebel region earlier this month, had been discovered, Itar-Tass news agency said.

Tass quoted Chechen presidential spokesman Mairbek Vagachev as saying beheaded bodies of Britons Darren Hickey, Rudolf Petschi, Peter Kennedy and New Zealander Stanley Shaw had been found late Friday on the outskirts of the regional capital Grozny.

Russian officials could not confirm the Tass report and Chechen officials could not be immediately reached for comment.

The men, employees of a British telecommunications firm, were seized in October in Grozny, where they were installing a mobile telephone system.

Their severed heads were found on December 8 on a road in western Chechnya.

Chechen officials have accused renegade guerrilla commander Arbi Barayev of leading the band that kidnapped the four men but no action has been taken to arrest him.

Tass quoted Vagachev as saying that someone had deliberately dumped the bodies in the Grozny suburb at night. He gave no further details.

Vagachev said that the remains of Hickey, Petschi, Kennedy and Shaw would be sent to their countries in the next few days.

Two top Khmer Rouge surrender

By SUTIN WANNABOVORN

PAILIN, Cambodia (Reuters) – Two of the most notorious leaders of Cambodia's Khmer Rouge guerrillas, Khieu Samphan and Nuon Chea, have surrendered to the government saying they want to live as normal citizens, the government said yesterday.

A senior official said it would be up to an international court to decide whether to put the two on trial for genocide after their Friday night defection in the western province of Pailin.

"From the position of the Royal Government, Nuon Chea and Khieu Samphan are OK, but it's up to an international court ... in terms of the genocide," the official, who did not want to be identified, said.

Both were among the handful of Khmer Rouge leaders under the late Pol Pot when his catastrophic experiment with ultra-Maoist revolution from 1975 to 1979 killed some 1.7 million Cambodians.

Khieu Samphan was head of state during Khmer Rouge rule and became its public face abroad after the group was driven from power by invading Vietnamese troops in early 1979.

Nuon Chea was Pol Pot's official "brother number two" and is described by historians as the group's ideological guru who inspired many of its bloody purges.

Ta Mok, who was also a close lieutenant to Pol Pot before toppling him as leader last year, had not joined the defectors, deputy chief of staff General Meas Sophea said.

Reuters journalists arriving in Pailin town, a gem mining center that was for long a Khmer Rouge stronghold until its leadership defected to the government in 1996, found local people unwilling to discuss the reported defections.

They included hospital doctor Ra Sary, daughter of Ieng Sary, a former comrade of the two in the Khmer Rouge ruling clique who received an amnesty from the government after his defection.

"I don't know, I don't know," she said, before hurrying off.

Administrative offices in the town were already closed and security forces did not allow reporters to visit the area on the outskirts where leaders like Ieng Sary have villas.

The reported defections follow widespread international calls for the Khmer Rouge leaders to stand trial, although no mechanism exists to allow this.

The government official said Prime Minister Hun Sen had spoken by phone for 30 minutes with Khieu Samphan and for 20 minutes with Nuon Chea on Friday night.

He said he did not know the exact conversation but said Hun Sen had told other officials the two had never been convicted in absentia by a Cambodian court in the early 1980s, unlike Pol Pot and Ieng Sary, his foreign minister.

But asked if the government was offering amnesties, Prak Sokhun, a senior adviser to Hun Sen, told Reuters: "I've not heard, but amnesty? I don't think so. I don't know what they are going to do, but I think it's up to the courts."

Deputy chief of staff General Meas Sophea said their surrender had been "unconditional."

A leading expert on the Khmer Rouge with close contacts with the guerrillas, Nate Thayer from the *Far Eastern Economic Review*, said he understood the two had "privately" been given a guarantee by the government that they would not be arrested.

Thayer said both had been trying to defect for some time.

"The reason it has taken so long is they have been afraid of being arrested and turned over to an international court. This is basically an amnesty deal, but still neither side trusts each other," he said, citing guerrilla sources.

"As of yesterday, there were still very serious concerns on the part of both of them that their security would not be respected," he said.

"There is no question they are indictable for war crimes and crimes against humanity," Thayer said. "For that reason it's always possible Hun Sen will seek to make political capital by turning them over to an international court."

Thayer said Khieu Samphan and Nuon Chea fell under Ta Mok's control in mid-1997, when he put Pol Pot on trial for betraying the movement. Pol Pot died in detention in April.

Hun Sen has said in the past that he wants all three to face trial, but also that he was willing to consider a deal with Khieu Samphan if he were able to deliver Ta Mok. The government has said nothing about the latter's whereabouts.

It released letters from Khieu Samphan and Nuon Chea to Hun Sen saying they wanted to live as "normal" citizens.

Branson loses balloon, $300,000 bet

By SANDY OSHIRO

HONOLULU (Reuters) – British tycoon Richard Branson was undaunted yesterday by the failure of his third round-the-world balloon record attempt – despite losing a $300,000 bet on his latest exploit.

"I think the most important thing is that in the last seven days we've just had the greatest adventure of our lifetimes," Branson told reporters at a news conference with his two co-pilots – American Steve Fossett and Swede Per Lindstrand.

The three were plucked from the sea off Hawaii on Friday by US Coast Guard helicopters as bad weather forced them to abort their bid to be the first to fly nonstop around the world in a hot-air balloon.

They were winched to safety after jumping into the water from their capsule, which was dragged bouncing across the rough seas for kilometers by the anached balloon. All were unhurt.

Fossett, a millionaire Chicago stock options broker who teamed up with Britain's best-known entrepreneur after two unsuccessful solo record attempts this year, said Branson had bet $300,000 with British bookmakers, who were giving odds of 10-1 against them, that they would succeed this time.

"If he won, it would have been a $3 million prize which he was going to contribute to his charities," Fossett said.

Their giant hot-air balloon, which took off from Morocco on December 18, travelled about 13,120 kms. – about half the distance of its intended odyssey – before the dejected adventurers decided to abandon the record bid on Christmas Day when an area of low pressure blocked their path.

East winds taking the balloon to the US coast turned south and with no way through and only four or five days fuel left, the men were forced to abandon their flight and head for the safety of Hawaii. On landing, the capsule was dragged bouncing along the water for about 10 minutes until the wind eased enough for the crew to jump out.

"It was the most hairy landing I've ever been through," said the 48-year-old Branson, who heads up the Virgin Group companies and has made two previous unsuccessful attempts at the last great aviation record. But he was characteristically vague about whether he might be tempted to try yet again.

"I've definitely used up my nine lives, I suspect we all have used up our nine lives. At the same time we now know we have the technology that can do it ... a balloon that is capable of sailing around the world," he said.

In August, the 54-year-old Fossett survived a death-defying fall of thousands of meters into the South Pacific when lightning storms ripped his balloon and ended his fourth round-the-world bid.

"When Richard and I jumped out and we're in the water and we're right close to each other, I reached over and shook hands and said 'We've survived.'" Fossett said.

In London, project director Mike Kendrick said: "I know it's a failure, but it's a glorious failure."

Sixty reported dead in Sierra Leone

By CLARENCE ROY-MACAULAY

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone (AP) – Fearing an impending rebel assault on Sierra Leone's capital, angry residents surged through the streets yesterday and burned alive at least two men accused of being rebel spies.

The rebel Revolutionary United Front, meanwhile, reported it had killed 60 Nigerian soldiers belonging to the West African intervention force known as ECOMOG while capturing the town of Makeni, 96 kilometers east of the capital, Freetown.

Rebel commander Sam Bockarie said his forces dragged the bodies of the dead soldiers through the streets of Makeni with an armored car "as an example to everyone."His claims could not be independently confirmed.

Fighting has intensified in recent weeks in the West African nation. The rebels, who controlled Freetown after a bloody May 1997 coup, are seeking revenge for their ouster from the capital in February.

Computer navigator lands German couple in river

POTSDAM, Germany (AP) – A German couple out for a Christmas drive near Berlin ended up in a river – apparently because their onboard computer navigator forgot to mention they had to wait for a ferry.

The 57-year-old driver and his passenger were not injured in the accident, police said yesterday.

The couple was out driving Friday night when they came to Caputh, where a ferry operates across the Havel River.

That information, however, apparently was never stored in the satellite-steered navigation system they were using, police said. The driver kept going straight in the dark, expecting a bridge, and ended up in the water.

Ship traffic on the river was stopped for two hours while the luxury car was fished out about 4 meters from the river bank.

"You can't always blindly rely on technology," a coast guard police officer said.

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China's war on democracy

The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights which China finally signed last October is meant to be worth a lot more than the paper it is written on. The signature of a state like China is also supposed to mean something. Beijing's new campaign against peaceful pro-democracy activists disgraces both.

Xu Wenli, the leading democracy advocate, and his associates Qin Yongmin and Wang Youcai, were last week jailed for over 12 years each in trials which made a mockery not only of China's signature on international rights documents and charters, but even of the country's own justice system. China's Foreign Ministry spokesman told a news conference just before the court cases that the two dissidents would get a fair trial "according to law and fair judgment." He also said the trial would be open, yet police barred entry to all but two or three family members, and the accused were not allowed defense lawyers. Under Chinese law, the state does not have the power to reject any representation, professional or not, chosen by a defendant. Of course, since it is a communist dictatorship, the Chinese government can and does consider itself above any law, national or international.

This is the reality which has faced Western appeasers for years as they continued to hope that China's economic advance would lead to overall liberalization, or even that the model of Hong Kong would influence change in the rest of the country. Last February the European Union nations agreed to adopt a soft policy on China's human rights issues, in the hope that an approach friendlier than the Americans would pay off in terms of the Europeans being able to nudge China towards changing its attitude to peaceful political dissidents. Many critics derided the policy as kow-towing to Beijing and getting nothing in return.

British government spokesmen strongly defended the policy and said it was paying off since, in the last year, China had signed two UN covenants on human rights, allowed a European Union delegation to visit Tibet, admitted Mary Robinson, the UN's High Commissioner for Human Rights, and had started important projects with Britain and the EU. These included studies reforming China's legal system and ways to introduce elections at village level. Such window dressing will be little comfort to the dissidents newly sentenced to long prison terms for subverting the state – what they really did was try to register a small democratic party. China says it respects freedom of expression, but jailed these men for calling for democratic change. It says it respects freedom of association, but then arrested virtually everyone associated with the fledgling China Democracy Party. It says it respects the law and the right to a fair and defended trial. Instead the government declared verdict first, then trial.

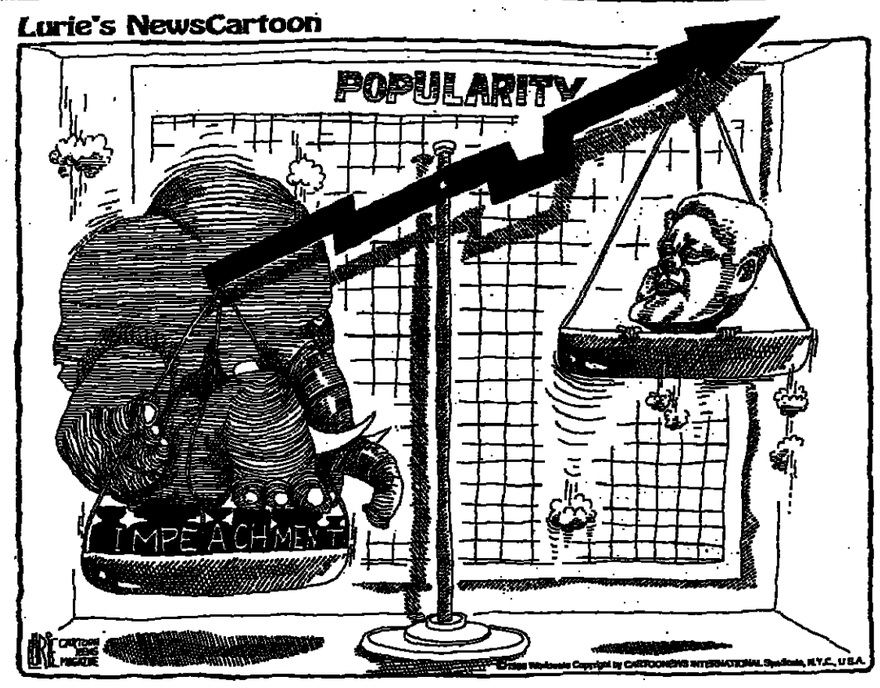
It is clear to everyone now that China is not to be trusted on its promises to improve human rights or to move towards a more democratic or fair system. If there remained any doubt on the matter, President Jiang Zemin himself dispelled them just before the kangaroo trials began. In a major policy address he said China will never accept multi-party politics and will crush any such "subversion." And lest the Chinese were forgetting that they are ruled by old-fashioned communists, Jiang, who is also head of the Communist Party, reminded them that his policy is stability, order and ensuring that the party line is followed. Even as he spoke, his security forces were engaged in a new wave of arrests and detentions of all those involved in the attempt to found the China Democracy Party. Jiang said the system must not be weakened and western types of political systems would never be copied. Attempts to do so are "infiltration, subversion, and separatism by international and domestic hostile forces" in Jiang's old-style Stalinist words. Such subversion will be resolutely nipped in the bud, he declared.

Softly, softly advocates in Europe and the United States must now look to their policies on China. It is true China has achieved great gains in the past 20 years, mostly economic, but also in terms of moving from the rough revolutionary justice of Mao's days to a somewhat more civilized society. But it is equally true China has a long way to go in treating its citizens as people with the inalienable rights which are written into the covenants China signed but cynically flouts.

Jiang made his "no democracy" speech last week on the 20th anniversary of the economic reforms started by the late paramount leader, Deng Xiaoping. He seemed to be making it clear that he is no Deng when it comes to reform of the political system – progress in China stops dead at the point of questioning the monolithic Communist Party. Jiang said party rule must be so set as to remain unchallenged even when leaders of different views take charge of the party. Here again is the monumental communist arrogance of trying to engineer not only society, but history and posterity.

Jiang and other Chinese leaders are fond of saying that Chinese values are different from Western values, thus giving them license to abuse human rights. They are wrong – Chinese culture is of course different, but human rights values are universal. Beijing has all but acknowledged that by signing the UN freedom and rights charters. It is up to the democracies of the world, and the United Nations, to remind China forcefully that it is expected to live up to what it has signed, not jail those who are trying to do so.

Lurie's NewsCartoon



Crystal ball on 1999

DAVID WEINBERG

Looking ahead into 1999, watch for the following:

Spring elections: 2,500 parties are running, alongside 97 candidates for prime minister – none of them inspiring – with political platforms that amount to little more than egoistic postcards. The result? More Israeli withdrawals alongside Palestinian statehood, no matter who wins, and a national unity government as the only way to overcome our polity's utter disintegration.

Bibi: Houdini has done it before and April is a long way off, so don't rule Netanyahu out yet. Admittedly, things look bad for the prime minister and very good for Amnon Lipkin-Shahak. But that's only because Shahak hasn't yet opened his mouth. Dan Meridor is the man to watch; you heard it here first.

Political culture: In a way, both Clinton and Netanyahu are casualties of a culture war where vengeance has become the defining idiom of politics; retribution and mean-spiritedness the operational scheme.

Watch the public demand an end to this untamed confrontationism. We deserve a politics that is selfless, issue-oriented, attenuated by reasonableness.

Shas: Round one of the never-ending Deri trials will conclude next year, my guess, in acquittal. Rounds two and three will extend centuries into the new millenium. In the meantime, Shas will formally swallow up the NRP and take over Habad too. The Sephardic Torah Guardians could even end up as the largest faction in the next Knesset! **Wye Two:** Palestinian and Israeli negotiators will be summoned to Wye River Plantation by Clinton (or Gore?) in late April to lock horns and head off a unilateral declaration of Palestinian statehood, scheduled for May 4. Betcha that this time Sara Netanyahu won't be there.

Battle for Jerusalem: Watch for the intifada to hit the Holy City full force as talks on final status heat up, or the battle brews over the borders of Arafat's unilaterally declared state. The "prisoner intifada" we've been facing in recent weeks is but child's play, a warm-up exercise.

Palestine: The little dictatorship on our borders won't be *pareve*, as one pundit put it recently, meaning that Palestine likely won't be winning any human rights, free speech or pacifist awards. How many times

Meridor is the man to watch, Deri will win twenty seats, and expect an intifada in Jerusalem

in 1999 will Arafat "arrest" and then release Sheikh Yassin? And with whom will Palestine vote more frequently in the UN – with the US, or Iraq?

Lebanon: Unilateral withdrawal from the security zone isn't much of an option, yet the public clamor for a change in our northern defense posture grows by the week, with every additional casualty. Do Shakak and Barak have any brilliant ideas, short of coughing up the entire Golan to Syria?

Haredim: The induction of 40 black-hat boys once every half-year into an haredi Nahal unit just won't cut it. A broader solution to haredi draft dodging has to be negotiated, and not just because the High Court of Justice has set a December 1999 deadline for this. Calm leadership on all sides is required for quiet, respectful deal-making, without going to the barricades.

Crime: Will the car theft numbers in 1999 top this year's record of 50,000? What about the 20,000 reported cases of violence within the family; 10,000 other assorted assaults; 60,000 burglaries; 14,000 drug-related offenses; 192 non-terrorist murders; and rapes that take place on average once every 12 hours?

Iraq: Will America will finally take down Saddam, with or without Monica as the impetus? Will the French and Russians force a re-introduction of phony, toothless UN inspections, allowing Saddam to rebuild his "milk powder factories" and "presidential palaces"?

Regional (in)stability: The kings of Morocco (Hassan), Saudi Arabia (Fahd) and Jordan (Hussein) are extremely ill. Assad and Arafat are not exactly healthy. Will the fundamentalists inherit the Arab earth in the next generation?

Bad guys: Keep an eye on the emerging strategic alliance between Russia, China and India. Prepare for the big bailout of a bankrupt Russian economy. Beware China. The next century could be hers, especially since the Clinton administration has dropped any pretense of linking trade to progress in human rights.

Wars everywhere: Might an Iran-Afghanistan border conflict engulf the region? Will there be an end to the bloodletting in Indonesia, Albania, Algeria, Serbia-Kosovo, Nagarno-Karabach, Rwanda, Sudan, Zaire, etc., etc.?

The Pope: Vatican denials notwithstanding, the Pope is seriously ill. What will Catholic-Jewish relations be like after John Paul II, and what will become of the millenium 2000 celebrations in Israel that he is so keen on? Of course, the Palestinians in Bethlehem will have to stop rioting for a few hours, else the tourists won't come.

Y2K: Come this time next December, will anyone be able to travel abroad for the holidays or will the "millenium bug" wipe out our international travel computer systems? Imagine a world without computer stock trading, hospital records, traffic lights, e-mail, and – gulp – newspapers!

The day after

DANIEL BLOCH

We are now entering a period of what will probably be a very hot election campaign full of personal smear attacks.

It will not be a gentlemen's fight and although every candidate will promise a clean campaign and pledge obedience to the rules of fair play, none of them will be able to keep that promise. Surely, candidates will blame each other for starting the smears and claim they were left with no other choice but retaliating. Don't believe them.

They are all fighting for their political life, knowing that if they lose this time, most of them, especially Netanyahu and Barak, will not be given another chance. So, we can only quote what Bette Davis once pronounced so eloquently in *All about Eve*: "Fasten your seat belts! We are in for a rough ride!"

The voters must take this prediction into account and remember one sure thing: The day after the second round, whoever wins will have to sit down with the other parties and form a broad coalition. These elections are all about two major issues: The leader of the next national unity government and the relative strength of each of the political components of the next coalition.

We can safely say that no candidate will win the elections by a landslide. Netanyahu won the last election on a margin of less than one percent – less than 30,000 votes. That is the reason why many people and political groups did not accept his authority. They regarded his success as a mere accident. And Netanyahu did not try to embrace the nearly half of the population that voted against him or try to mend fences with those who were skeptical of the moral legitimacy of his mandate.

These elections are all about two major issues: The leader of the next national unity government and the relative strength of each of the political components of the next coalition

WHOEVER wins the next elections, the results may produce the same kind of narrow victory and surely no party or block of parties will gain a clear majority. Therefore the only way to heal the country and to solve our critical problems, while preventing the total collapse of our democratic system, will be by forming a government that enjoys a clear and wide majority. This must a government that won't be held hostage by one-issue parties and narrow interest groups. This must be a government that can make unpopular decisions without being blocked by a few MKs, who want their pound of flesh as a precondition for their vote.

Except for the extreme Right, everybody knows that there is no way back from the peace process based on the Oslo Accords and the Wye River agreements. A Palestinian state is a fait accompli, whether we like it or not, and not all the settlements can stay under Israeli sovereignty.

We have to get out of Lebanon and the only way to do that without major security risks, is to resume negotiations with Assad from the point where they left off after Rabin, mainly agreeing to give back most of the Golan in exchange for comprehensive peace with our northern neighbors.

Another main task of the next government is to deal with our long-neglected domestic social needs. There is an urgent need to resume economic growth and to reduce unemployment. The mere forming of a broad coalition and the immediate serious resumption of the peace process would bring back confidence and again stimulate our economy.

The other urgent matter is the relationship among all segments of our society, especially between the religious and secular. Only a broad-based government that is not exclusively dependent on the votes of the religious parties can start the dialogue on the future character of Israel and its relationship to the Jews in the Diaspora.

Thus, the election campaign is about who of the four present main candidates – Barak, Meridor, Shahak and Netanyahu – can best form and lead this kind of government and coalition. Who can lead with honesty and integrity, with a knowledge of how to include more than to exclude, while knowing how to build consensus without antagonizing minorities, both inside and outside the coalition? He must be a leader but not a dictator because it can not be a one-man show anymore. He will have to act more as a chairman of the board than as a commander in chief. Whoever succeeds in convincing the electorate that he will be that kind of a leader will win the next elections.

Definitely not Prime Minister Shahak

STUART A. COHEN

There are three reasons to be alarmed by the news that Amnon Lipkin-Shahak is to announce his candidacy for the position of prime minister.

The first reason relates to his personal status. Shahak is not an "ordinary" citizen, exercising his democratic right to run for public office. Formally, he is still a professional member of the armed forces Although he completed his tenure as the IDF chief of staff last summer, he has only just retired fully from service as a professional soldier. In so doing he has certainly abided by the letter of the law which prohibits military personnel from participating in public political life. Nevertheless, by allowing himself such a short intermission, he has certainly contravened its spirit.

In so doing, Shahak has in fact tarnished Israel's image as a healthy civic democracy. Even as matters stand, at the apex of government the boundaries of Israeli civil-military relations are far too blurred for comfort, and need to be more rigorously demarcated. By those standards, a decision on Shahak's part to run for the highest elected office in the land so soon after his retirement from the IDF would constitute a retrograde step. Besides all else, it would seriously impugn the non-partisan status of Israel's military as a whole.

The second reason for opposing Shahak's candidacy for the office of prime minister is more strictly constitutional. As Dr. Arik Carmon of the Israel Institute for Democracy has recently emphasized, our system of government is parliamentary – not presidential. Even though we do now elect our prime ministers by direct vote, we nevertheless expect them to represent and articulate the platform of an organized political party. Hence, the personal qualities of the candidate are only one essential qualification for office. That criterion has to be supplemented by his or her position as a spokesperson for a body of opinion which has been worked out through the mill of wider public debate.

BY that gauge too, Shahak's prospective candidacy falls short of the required standard. Given his personal background, he can be presumed to possess clear-cut policies vis-a-vis Israel's narrowly-defined security concerns (although, to be frank, exactly what his precise positions are on such contentious matters as the retention of Israel's "security zone" in Lebanon are still far from clear). But is the same true of the host of domestic issues which must also demand a prime minister's attention, such as – to name just a few – the religious-secular divide, the future of the health service, and relations between the Treasury and the Bank of Israel? And even if he does come up with a catch-all program on these matters, what evidence can he give to the electorate in order to show that he has formulated his plans in the considered and consensual manner which intra-party discussion and debate is designed to assure?

A parliamentary democracy is not simply an opinion poll, or even a series of opinion polls, about the popularity of a single personality. Its critical component, and one which advocates of Shahak's candidacy seem altogether to ignore, is a far more continuous interaction with the public on the issues of the day. These have to be set out as an integrated whole by an entire team of politicians, whom the prospective prime minister has been democratically elected to lead.

But let's assume, for argument's sake, that Shahak, does stand as head of a "third party". His candidacy would still be unwelcome – this time for what might be termed "governmental" reasons. After all, not even the rosiest of polls predict that, if indeed elected prime minister, he will be assured of the support of more than a small minority of members of the Knesset. Rather, all suggest that a "third party" – even one lead by Shahak – will win just a handful of seats: sufficient, certainly, to make it a parliamentary force to be reckoned with, but nevertheless not nearly enough to constitute a certain majority in any coalition.

This, surely, is a recipe for governmental chaos. As Binyamin Netanyahu has already discovered, even directly elected prime ministers cannot conduct the country's business effectively and efficiently unless assured of sufficient parliamentary backing. Personal charisma – which under the best of circumstances must always be a wasting asset – cannot suffice. Ultimately, arithmetic rules. And arithmetic demands that the prime minister's own party commands an undisputed preponderance within the ruling coalition and hence a majority of senior ministerial posts. Shahak, if elected, is very unlikely to enjoy either advantage.

So, whichever way it is examined, Shahak's candidacy appears undesirable. If he really does wish to continue his record of service to the country, he would be advised to choose an alternative course.

The writer is a senior research fellow at the BESA Center for Strategic Studies, Bar-Ilan University.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CAUSE FOR REMORSE

Sir,- In "Pilot error responsible for bombing deaths," (Dec. 24), about the Lebanese mother and six children killed by an IAF pilot's mistargeting of their home, Margot Dudkevitch quotes comments by "former IAF fighter pilot and air warfare strategist Shmuel Gordon" who is said to have "stressed that the pilot is doubtlessly suffering from the knowledge that, as a result of his action, residents in the North are threatened."

I found thus statement shocking, incredible, and peculiar. Is the actual death of Nadwa Osman and her children less cause for remorse? Maybe Mr. Gordon was misquoted. Or maybe, since the second IAF plane had successfully blown up the original intended target, the pilot decided that he could put his bombs to better use by eliminating another potential terrorist hideout which, alas, turned out to have been inexplicably in use by a family as a dwelling. Realistically, we may never know the truth. And who am I to act as a Monday-morning quarterback for an IAF pilot on the job? But the fact remains that Nadwa Osman and six of her kids are still dead.

DEBORAH REICH
Karkur.

BAD ADVICE

Sir.- Larry Derfner, thoroughly mesmerized by James Carville, whom he entitles "genius", "Svengali", "wizard" and "Barak's answer to Arthur Finkelstein" (Dec. 18), neglects to mention the most (in)famous uttering which will assure Carville his place in history or at least in someone's collection of political quotations.

Let loose by Bill Clinton on Paula Jones, Carville, viciously and in cruel fashion, came up with the classic, "Drag a $100 bill through a trailer park and there's no telling what trash you'll pick up."

This attempt to impinge on Jones's personal character will go down in the history books as a double-edged boomerang. I wonder what East Coast liberals made of Carville's politically incorrect maligning of this southern white female.

If Carville truly is to advise Ehud Barak, one can only comment, "there's no telling what you'll pick up if you drag a $10,000 bill through a Washington corridor of power".

YISRAEL MEDAD
Shiloh.

JOIN THE REAL WORLD

Sir.– Instead of vilifying the haredim for shirking military duty in favor of yeshiva studies, wouldn't it be better to praise those Orthodox who manage to combine both Torah studies and military service?

The haredim, mired in their Middle Ages rut, will gradually dwindle in number, opting to join their Orthodox brethren who are living in the real world.

MACABEE DEAN
Ramat Gan.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On December 27, 1933, *The Palestine Post* reported from London that the British press had suggested that Malta's military facilities should be abandoned in favor of Haifa. Italian propaganda had brought about a feeling of uncertainty as to the loyalty of the Maltese community.

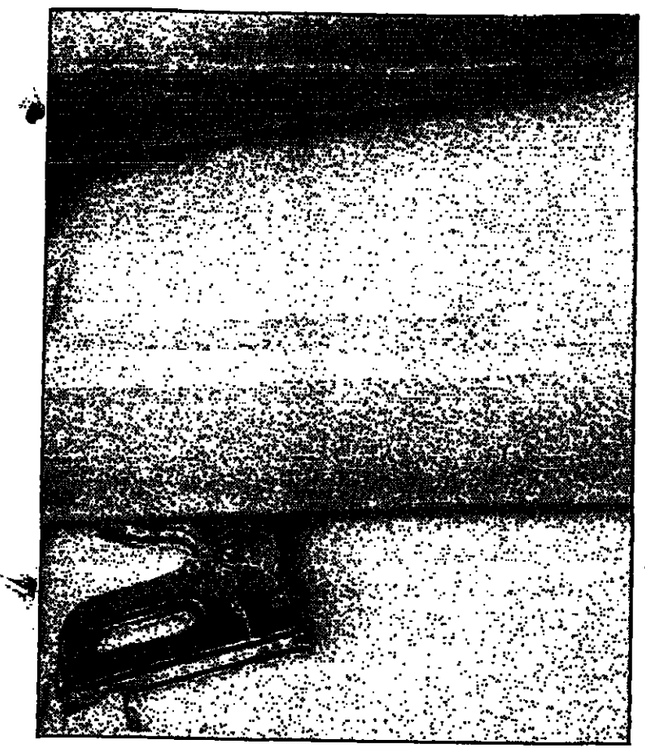
50 years ago: On December 27, 1948, *The Palestine Post* reported that Egyptian aircraft had dropped bombs on Tel Aviv, causing some damage and casualties. Israeli forces were reported to be advancing in the Negev, meeting little Egyptian resistance.

25 years ago: On December 27, 1973, *The Jerusalem Post* reported that Israeli and Egyptian military groups were continuing their disengagement discussions at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

Alexander Zvielli

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Avigdor Arikha: Stapler and canvas, oils, 1986 ($25,000-$35,000 at Gordon)

An eclectic offering

AT THE AUCTIONS

BY PETER HONEY

The first local auction of 1999 kicks off with the massive Gordon Gallery offer of 355 lots at the Tel Aviv Fairgrounds Convention Center on January 5, nearly all of Israeli art. Most prices are modest; it makes you wonder why the owners bother selling; and I suspect that many of these lots won't find a buyer these days. The comparatively few big punters will vie for expensive works by Gutman, Aroch, Lesser Ury, Rubin, Zaritzky and Streichman.

The first 24 lots of Israeli art are from the Vienna collection of Vera and Jeno Eisenberger. The best of the many **Nahum Gutmans** in this collection is a profile of a girl with a basket of pomegranates, painted in 1936 ($50,000-$70,000). A late abstract **Mordecai Ardon**, 1968, has an optimistic estimate of $90,000-$120,000, while his portrait of a girl, 1950, painted while he was the director of the Bezalel, has a more modest estimate of $40,000-$60,000. Another pleasant Ardon of a semi-abstracted vase of flowers, 1955, is estimated between $40,000 and $60,000. Flowers in a vase by **Reuven Rubin**, 1961, is a trifle flashy and will be lucky to reach its lower estimate of $80,000.

One of the surprises of this collection are two vibrant abstract oils by **Lea Nikel**, both quite recent. Both should go above $10,000. There's also a lovely through-the-window watercolor by **Yehezkel Streichman**, 1977 ($5,000-$7,000, may go for more). An early **Zaritzky** watercolor from 1930 is well worth attention ($25,000-$30,000), as is a rather pretty pastel landscape by **Lesser Ury**, 1893 ($20,000-$24,000).

A little further into the sale, another Lesser Ury, of cabs in a Berlin street, 1923, from the collection of Dr. Alexander Raphaeli, has a minimum estimate of $40,000. An unusual ink drawing of a seated nude by Ury has an estimate of $3,000-$4,000. There's also a very early painting by this artist, a bird's-eye view of horses and a landau, in a quite impressionist technique ($25,000-$35,000).

A fine piece of Russian proto-impressionism by Jewish painter **Isaak Levitan** (1860-1900), a late landscape from 1898, should have no trouble passing its lower estimate of $20,000.

Want a real early **Picasso**? Lot no. 32 is a 1901 blue-and-black chalk drawing of an Andalusian couple in a tavern, signed Ruiz Picasso, sold at Christie's back in 1969 when accompanied by a photograph signed by Picasso in 1963 ($35,000-$45,000).

The current **Avigdor Arikha** exhibitions at the Israel Museum and Tel Aviv Museum should stimulate interest in a 1987 oil by this artist of a stapler and a roll of canvas on the back of a stretcher ($25,000-$35,000). A vibrant little abstract gouache by Arikha from 1963 has an estimate of $2,500-$3,500.

Bidders should note that the buyer's premium on works under $25,000 is 15% and that VAT often applies.

THE NEXT Tel Aviv auction will take place on January 24, when Matza Auctions will offer Israeli and international lots, headed by a late Gutman of a house in an orchard.



Nahum Gutman (1898-1978): Girl with Pomegranates, oils, 1936 ($50,000-$70,000 at Gordon Gallery auction)



Isaak Ilyich Levitan (1860-1900): Landscape, oils, 1898 ($20,000-$30,000 at Gordon)



Isaac Israels (1865-1934): Couple in a Cafe, oils ($6,000-$8,000 at Gordon)

OILS BY two of Spain's finest painters, **Diego Velazquez** (1599-1660) and **Domenikos Theotokopoulos, El Greco** (1541-1614), are to be sold by Christie's New York on January 20. The Velazquez, a magnificent portrait, obviously made from a real girl, perhaps the artist's daughter, depicts Saint Rufina, the martyred Christian ceramic seller tortured to death by a Roman governor for smashing a pagan diety. She became one of the patron saints and protector of Seville. The oil is thought to have been made between 1632-34.

The El Greco shows St. Francis kneeling in meditation, the cord of his cassock used a compositional device still imitated by today's painters, notably Lucian Freud, who did much the same with a sock shucked by a male nude. I can't tell you the estimates for these major canvases: estimate is only by request.

More about these oils in our next column.

Most bees survive stinging

TELL ME WHY

BY JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

Why do bees die immediately after stinging somebody? Linda, Jerusalem.

Dr. Tammy Keasar, a researcher at the Hebrew University's Department of Evolution, Systematics and Ecology, who has conducted live-bee experiments at its Center for Rationality and Interactive Decision-Making, replies:

The only bees that sting people, lose their stingers and die are honey bees. The bumble bee and other species, such as the anthophora, may sting, but they don't die.

The reason for this is the structure of the stinger. If the stinger has sharp "hooks" or "teeth" on it, pulling it out of the skin of mammals is very difficult for the bee, and the stinger breaks off when the bee tries to get away. This leads to its death within a few minutes, because the stinger is the continuation of the tube through which the bee lays its eggs; when the tube is ripped, its internal organs are injured, and the insect cannot survive.

Bees can sting insects and other creatures, but since insects have an outer coating – a brittle substance called chitin – it's easier to break away from the victim without the stinger breaking off.

Bumble bees and anthophora have stingers that are smooth, without hooks, so just as they insert them easily into the skin of a mammal, they can pull them out easily and survive.

By the way, only female bees sting. It's usually the class of bees "assigned" to guard a hive that sting. They do this almost always when they or the hive are attacked, but if someone mistakenly steps on or topples a hive, all the bees inside will go out to attack.

The anthophora is much smaller, and is not a social bee; it lives alone, its stings are not serious and it doesn't lose its stinger.

Scientists have not discovered any explanation of why honey bees were "built" to die after stinging; they know of no evolutionary benefit to this.

Why, at my health-fund clinic, do they sometimes take blood from the finger, sometimes from the wrist and sometimes from the inside of the elbow? Is the blood any different at each point? Herzi, Kiron.

Dr. Miriam Almagor, head of the laboratory branch at Jerusalem's Bikur Holim Hospital, answers:

Lab workers take blood from different parts of the body depending on the purpose for which they need the blood and the age of the patient.

The finger is used to take blood from a child, or from an adult who needs only one blood parameter checked, such as the glucose level for diabetics or a blood-cell count. Only a few drops come out. If one squeezed the finger hard, it could cause damage to the tissues in the child's finger.

We try not to take children's blood from the wrist or inside of the elbow, because it is more painful and frightening.

Blood that comes from the finger emanates from capillaries. But blood is most often taken from the crook of the elbow, where it comes out of a vein. Blood is taken from the wrist if there is too thick a layer of fat on the inside of the elbow; there is much less fat at the wrist. But blood taken at the wrist is the same blood as from the crook of the elbow – it is venous blood.

Venous blood is preferable when you need to examine many parameters, such as clotting ability, drug levels and biochemistry; much more blood – about seven cubic centimeters – comes out of a vein.

There isn't much difference in most parameters between blood taken from capillaries or veins, but there is a slight variation when you check for metabolites.

Why can you sometimes see the moon during the day and on other clear days you can't? Yona, Yehud.

Prof. Avraham Zangvil, a meteorological expert at the Institute for Desert Research at Ben-Gurion University in the Negev, comments:

The moon is not always on top of the horizon; sometimes it's below, so you can't see it. In addition, if the paths of the sun and the moon are nearby in the sky, the sun will overpower the moon, which produces no light of its own, but just reflects the light of the sun.

But on a clear day, if the moon is located over the horizon and the sun is not too close, you can see the moon, whether as a sliver, half or a full moon, depending on the time of the lunar month. Obviously, the moon appears to be much more faded during the day than at night.

Why do people – and animals – stretch, and why does it feel so good? Reuven, Zahala.

Dr. Na'ama Constantini, a family and sports medicine specialist, and Zippy Back, head of the sports injury treatment unit – both of the Wingate Institute for Physical Education near Netanya – explain:

Stretching your body after being in one position for some time, or after sleeping, is like oiling a machine. It moves more freely afterwards.

During sleep or inaction, the the rate of blood flow and metabolism decrease. Stretching increases the range of motion of the muscles, fascia (covering of the muscles) and ligaments around the joints and triggers increased blood flow and higher metabolism. And as we get older, the cartilage in the joints depends more on movement to get the blood moving. Therefore, people or animals feel better and more able to use their muscles and joints.

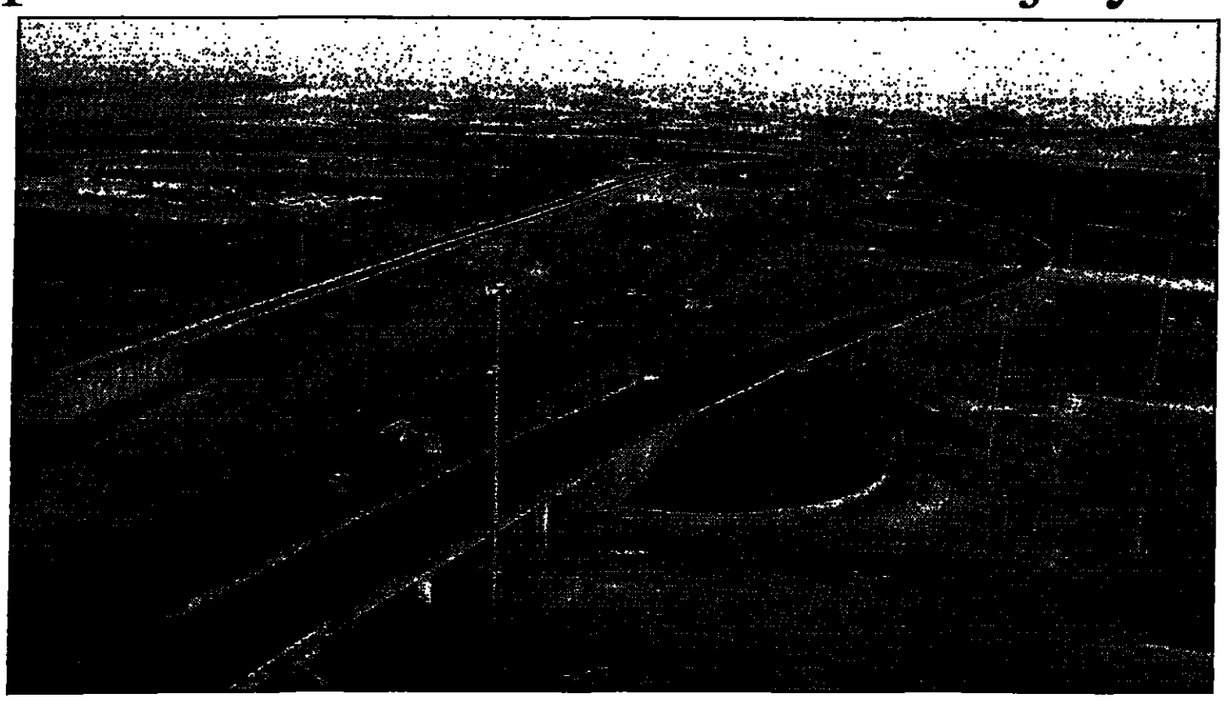
There is a dispute among sports medicine experts as to whether people have to do warm-ups before performing rigorous physical activity. But it's agreed that animals that wake up to escape an attacker or to catch a meal don't need to stretch first, because their bodies produce adrenalin, a hormone that gets the heart pumping and the blood moving immediately.

Have you always wondered about the scientific explanation for ordinary phenomena? Now you can get an answer. Mail your question to TELL ME WHY, The Jerusalem Post, POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem, fax it to (02) 538-9527 or send it by e-mail to jusie@jpost.co.il. Please include your first name and place of residence.

A transport 'solution' that adds insult to injury

Earthly Concerns

By D'vora Ben Shaul



The Kesem Interchange near Rosh Ha'ayin, built at a cost of NIS 144 million: Experience in other countries indicates that more highways lead to more cars and no reduction in road congestion.

The proposed Trans-Israel Highway (Route 6) has aroused enormous controversy, with parties on both sides of the debate making so many claims and counterclaims that it is hard to know just what the real situation is or is likely to be.

For some of us, it is quite inconceivable that the government is actually pursuing this enormously expensive project when it has never carried out a comprehensive assessment of transportation costs or needs.

At the Hebrew University-Hadassah's School of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, epidemiologist Dr. Elihu Richter and his staff have tried as best they can to assess the true costs of this project. Due to the paucity of available information they have in some cases been forced to extrapolate data based on the experience of other countries where such transportation projects have been undertaken.

First and foremost, the claim that this highway will decrease traffic congestion does not seem to hold up in light of statistics from a number of countries, including England and Germany.

Experience in other countries indicates that more highways simply lead to more cars, that within a few years, traffic on the new roads is just as congested as it was on the previous ones.

According to this study, the construction of Route 6 will cost NIS 5,000 for every 15 centimeters. It will, Richter and his staff also claim, cost NIS 1.5 billion a year in deaths and injuries – without taking into account the damage to health from added air pollution.

They estimate that adding another high-speed highway will account for hundreds of additional deaths per year.

Richter claims that the main incentive for going ahead with this plan – as well as the reason little or nothing is being done to develop fast, safe and efficient mass transport – is the fact that the government collects NIS 12 billion a year in taxes on new cars.

But the average Israeli is the one who will pay, first in the taxes to be expended on this project and, secondly, in costs of their own transport, since the average family spends an estimated NIS 22,000 a year on maintaining a vehicle.

Richter admits that these figures are not exact, but says they are pretty close to the truth and that further study will make it clear just how much more this project will cost in terms of other as-yet-unassessed factors such as property damage and loss of natural resources.

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NEWS

of the muse

By HELEN KAYE

Doron Tavori wins translators' prize

Actor Doron Tavori has won the 1998 Ada Ben-Nahum Translators' Prize for his translations of the Carl Sternheim Quartet, four plays dealing with the rise and fall of the German bourgeoisie before and after World War I.

Tavori also stars in the four plays which are playing in repertory at the Habimah Theater.

Tavori received his NIS 5,000 check at Beit Lessin last Friday. Ben-Nahum, a noted translator herself, was artistic director of Beit Lessin at the time of her death in 1990.

New Levin and other plays at the Cameri

Playwright Hanoch Levin has begun rehearsals for his newest play, *Ashkava* ("Burial") at the Cameri Theater. He calls it a legend on death, and the story is set in a lonely village at the edge of some great land. The play is peopled with Levin's usual parade of miserable and/or moribund people mourning their lives and their fate. The cast, Levin veterans all, includes Zaharira Harifa'i, Dina Bley, Florence Bloch and Yosef Carmon.

The late-'90s new British plays from the Royal National and other UK theaters that will be given staged readings in Hebrew by Cameri actors at the theater on January 8 and 9 include: *Knives in Hens*, a story set in a flour mill, by Scotsman David Harrower; *East is East* about a Pakistani family in England, by Ayoub Khan; *My Boy Jack* by David Haigh on Rudyard Kipling and his son, and Kevin Elyot's *The Day I Stood Still*, about hopeless homosexual love and *Serving It Up*, a play on drug abuse by David Eldridge. Harrower and Elyot are among the visitors coming from the UK for the event.

Spiegel Film School movies go traveling

Two short films by Sam Spiegel Film School students were among 15 chosen to compete at the 1999 Berlin Children's Film Festival. They are Nir Bergman's *Seahorses* and Amnon Kottler's *Striptease*, both prizewinners.

Seahorses won first and second prizes at, respectively, the Lodz and Haifa Students film festivals. *Striptease* won honorable mention at Haifa. Both films were also among several SSFS films that were shown earlier this month at the Paris Cinematheque in honor of Israel's jubilee.

Greek dancers to visit

The Edafos Dance Theater of Greece is coming to Rishon Lezion's new municipal auditorium on January 28 for two performances.

Edafos, a multidisciplinary company, will perform *Medea*, a dance-theater piece created by the company's founding artistic director, Dimitris Papaioannou. Angelliki Stellatou, who cofounded the company, will dance the title role.

Medea, which premiered in Athens in 1993, won that year's National Dance Prize.



Kobi Oz and a non-singing member of Tea-Packs. (Jonathan Bloom)

Coming up to milestones

Sabra Sounds



By Shai Tsur

When the documentary series *End of the Orange Season* finally gets to the Israeli rock scene in the 1990s, chances are good that the bands Eyfo Hayeled "(Where is the Kid?") and Tea-Packs will both be featured prominently.

MISHEHU SHOME'A OTI: HA'OSEF
Eyfo Hayeled
Hed Artzi

HA'ETZEV AVAR LAGUR KAN
Tea-Packs
Hed Artzi

Both bands burst on the scene in the earlier part of the decade. The former introduced a punchy sound which heavily influenced many of the young groups which followed; the latter has contributed heavily to the fusion of rock with Oriental/Mizrahi elements.

At the end of the '90s both bands find themselves at milestones. Eyfo Hayeled, though now defunct, has released *Mishehu Shome'a Oti: Ha'osef* ("Someone is Listening to Me: The Collection"), its best-of disc. Meanwhile, Tea-Packs is celebrating 10 years together with a five-song EP, *Ha'etzev Avar Lagur Kan* ("Sadness Has Come to Live Here").

Eyfo Hayeled broke out in 1993 with its debut album, *Sugar Time*. The quartet, led by bassist/singer Hemi Rudner and guitarist Assaf Sarig, developed a sound that combined light, jangly elements (primarily acoustic guitar) with heavier ones (electric guitars and synthesizers).

Sugar Time was an enormous success, helped out by catchy songs and the group's energetic live shows.

The band's three subsequent albums failed to live up to expectations, garnering fewer and fewer sales, and the boys eventually went their separate ways. The Eyfo Hayeled sound, however, lives on in about half the groups on the scene today.

Despite the fact that many of the songs on *Someone is Listening to Me* have long become radio staples, they still sound fresh today. Few among the Eyfo Hayeled aspirants have managed to capture the musical complexity of songs like "What You're Going Through," "You Fell Hard," and especially the title track.

The dominant instruments on *Someone is Listening to Me* – the guitars, synthesizer, and drums – each seem to be going in different, but interesting, directions. Somehow the package holds together, punctuated by Rudner's funky bass lines and Assaf Meroz's energetic drumming.

As the group developed, however, the music became more experimental, less catchy. The lyrics became darker, with pessimistic songs such as "One God" taking the place of love tunes.

In addition, to a greatest-hits disc, the collection comes with a bonus CD that includes four new songs and four live tracks. The bonus material includes a downbeat love song ("Venus in Trainers"), a silly garage-band anthem ("She Doesn't Know How to Drink"), and one of the band's better pieces, a John Lennon-inspired number called "Everyone Needs a Friend."

In addition, the band performs an English-language cover of David Bowie's "Moonage Daydream."

WHILE Eyfo Hayeled might be history, Tea-Packs are still very much alive and kicking. *Sadness Has Come to Live Here* marks 10 years of activity for the band with a half-dozen new songs.

Over the years critics and fans have lauded Tea Packs for carving out a musical middle ground between East and West. Perhaps just as interesting is the manner in which the band's frontman and driving force, Kobi Oz, has fused his clownish – and, truth be told, rather calculated – image with a great deal of pathos.

This is readily evident on the EP's title track. Here, Oz takes an extended metaphor and stretches it in weird directions. Having established that Sadness has moved into his apartment building, he then informs us that it occasionally stops by to borrow a cup of sugar and eventually gets a seat on the house committee.

The song is a downer, as are the rest of the tracks on the EP. Somehow, the band's decennial seems to have put it in a sad mood. Loneliness and yearning seem to be the theme here, whether waiting for a call which doesn't come on "With a Hand on the Telephone," or having post-breakup issues on "I'm Dealing With the Loneliness."

Tea Packs seem to be trying out a new trip-hop-inspired sound with mixed results. Oriental motifs are mostly lacking, except on the final song, "You Don't Try."

In addition, the EP suffers from a fairly muddy musical mix. This is a prelude to the band's next album; hopefully they'll cheer up by then.

West Coast jazz in a box: Don't call it all Cool Jazz

By RICHARD HARRINGTON

It was never totally fair to pigeonhole West Coast jazz as Cool Jazz, but neither was it inaccurate. After all, compared with the more fiery, emotional character of the East Coast's bebop and post-bop movements, the music most identified with the West Coast in the '50s and early '60s was a softer, more cerebral form of chamber jazz, heavy on contrapuntal music and the incorporation of such "exotic" instruments as flute, oboe and cello.

A new release, *The West Coast Jazz Box* (Fantasy), makes a compelling argument that the scene was far more varied than history would have it. In 61 chronologically arranged tracks recorded between 1950 and 1964, the release offers not only the major "cool" figures – saxophonists Gerry Mulligan and Paul Desmond, trumpeter Chet Baker, flutist Buddy Collette, clarinetist Jimmy Giuffre, ensemble leaders Chico Hamilton, Howard Rumsey and Shelly Manne and bandleaders Gerald Wilson, Benny Carter and Bill Holman – but also a cornucopia of players not always associated with the West Coast. These include tenor saxophonist Sonny Rollins (from his seminal *Way Out West* album), bassist Charles Mingus (a ruminative duet on "Body and Soul" with Spaulding Givens) and Eric Dolphy (a mesmerizing "Far East" with Dolphy's airy flute melding beautifully with Nate Gershman's cello).

The collection starts off with a trio of live tracks, including "Move/Jazz on Sunset," a hard-charging Hollywood Hula Club blowout featuring saxophonists Wardell Gray and Dexter Gordon with trumpeter Clark Terry, the Sonny Criss Sextet's snappy "Intermission Riff" and "Bright Boy," featuring Gray and trumpeter Art Farmer. Over the course of four CDs, there are plenty of other "hot" spots, from spry offerings by the Curtis Amy Sextet ("Katanga") and the Harold Land Quintet ("The Fox") to Frank Morgan sitting in with Machito's Rhythm Section on a propulsive "Whippet," and Art Pepper turning to Miles Davis' rhythm section for a seductive "You'd Be So Nice to Come Home To."

The cool reputation begins with Shorty Rogers & His Giants on 1951's sleek, smoothed-out "Popo," and comes to a head a few years later with such pianoless ensembles as the Gerry Mulligan Quartet with Chet Baker (an elegantly icy "My Funny Valentine") and the sax-rooted Lennie Niehaus Quintet (a bracing "Whose Blues?").

Unusual instrumentation helped codify the West Coast sound and that's well-represented: the cool shimmering sway of Bud Shank's flute and Bob Cooper's oboe in the Howard Rumsey's Lighthouse All-Stars' "Aquarium"; the Chico Hamilton Quintet's breezy "Blue Sands," featuring Buddy Collette's flute, Fred Katz's cello and Jim Hall's guitar; and the Jimmy Giuffre Trio's sinuous "Pickin' 'Em Up and Layin' 'Em Down," in which Giuffre's clarinet and Hall's guitar mesh gracefully with Bob Brookmeyer's valve trombone.

Drawn mostly from the Contemporary and Fantasy catalogs (with a few Blue Note offerings), *The West Coast Jazz Box* serves up a little of everything, from standard piano trios led by Hampton Hawes, Art Tatum, Elmo Hope and Vince Guaraldi to the orchestral visions of Gerald Wilson and Bill Holman, whose sophisticated arrangements fuel performances by the Stan Kenton and Terry Gibbs big bands, and whose own big band offering, "No Heat," belies both its title and the West Coast jazz scene's lingering reputation. (The Washington Post)

Sunday Jazz will return next week.

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Bolshoi beckons

Maria Alexandrova and Nicolai Tsiskaridze (above), are two of the stars from the Bolshoi Ballet who will join 50 students from the Bolshoi Academy for four performances at the Mann Auditorium from February 20. Soloists and fledgling stars will perform excerpts from the great Russian ballets, such as 'Don Quixote,' 'Swan Lake,' 'La Bayadere,' among others. The academy, now run by Sofia Golovkina, has hatched such luminaries as Maya Plisetskaya, Natalia Bessmertovna and Nadezhda Grachova. Golovkina herself has been with the Bolshoi for more than 60 years. She started there as a 10-year-old student and went on to a glittering 27-year career with the parent company, from which she resigned in 1959 to teach at the academy.

(Text: Helen Kaye)

The second generation teams up

By TIM REID and CATHERINE MILNER

The children of Lord Lloyd-Webber and Sir Tim Rice, whose songwriting partnership produced hit musicals including *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *Evita*, have teamed up to make an album of their own.

Eva Rice, 23, who was named after Eva Peron, and Nick Lloyd Webber, 19, have been working together on several songs in recent months.Like their fathers, Rice Jr. provides the lyrics while Lloyd Webber writes the music.

"It's definitely something that's going to work," said Rice. "I think our family names will help people get interested, but then if the songs are no good, nobody will buy it. It's the quality of the music that will count."

The couple, who both perform in bands of their own, have known each other since childhood, but say they have become close friends only in the past 12 months.

Rice said the songs had a "pretty popular" feel, but only one had actually been named – a track called "Life in the Middle Lane."

"At the moment, we have written three songs, and we have to do a few more, but half of them haven't got titles yet.

"Nick and I first met when we were small children, because of our parents. But we didn't know each other well until recently. We met up at a party, and started chatting about music. It just sort of happened. We had a couple of ideas that we liked and decided to try something together."

Nick Lloyd Webber, who left St. Edward's School, Oxford, last year, said he and his father did not cross paths professionally, but occasionally played each other pieces of music they had written.

"My father is very happy with the partnership, and thinks it is a good idea," he said. "But he doesn't ask me a great deal about my music.

LLOYD Webber, who plays keyboards in a band called Morgans Baby, said he and Eva – who fronts her own band called Replicant Saints – had been accompanying each other on guitars when songwriting.

"I suppose it became inevitable. We are both in bands, we play in the same venues, and now have the same way of life. We are mates, and we have teamed up to do a bit of song writing," he said.

"I think Eva's band is great, but it is totally different from mine. Her band plays funky pop, and is quite trashy, with some quite leery guitar playing. Mine is a bit more obscure – we produce an eclectic mix of sounds, which are perhaps less easy to swallow."

Rice describes her band's music as "Blondie with a Nineties twist." She certainly has the looks for any album cover – she is also a model on the books at IMG.

Lord Lloyd-Webber said recently: "Its a slight mystery how they met – I haven't worked with Tim Rice since *Evita*, which was years ago, and I didn't know they knew each other."

Whether the young pair can emulate the success of their fathers is quite another matter.

In 1968 Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice, school friends, were asked to compose something for a school performance. The result was *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*.

Thirty years later, Lord Lloyd-Webber is estimated to have amassed a fortune of £480 million. (The Sunday Telegraph)

هكذا من الاصل

1998 The Jerusalem P

هكذا من الاصل

A mouse that clicks kids into a world of 'feeling better'

Kav Or supplies hospitals countrywide with computers to help sick children stop fretting about their ailments and start communicating, Judy Siegel-Itzkovich writes

The computer screen, keyboard, printer, mouse and modem are becoming as important an element in a child's recovery from disease or injury as the hypodermic needle, X-ray machine or medication.

Operating out of a cramped, 18-square-meter office in Jerusalem's David Yellin Teachers' College since 1993, an organization called Kav Or is giving computer access to some 100,000 children who are inpatients or chronic outpatients in 17 hospitals countrywide.

The Kav Or (meaning "line of light") Distant Learning for Children in Hospital service was believed unique in the world until the launching of a similar one recently in the US.

US First Lady Hillary Clinton saw Kav Or in action when she visited the Mother and Child Care Center at Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem's Ein Kerem earlier this month.

The voluntary organization provides the hospitals with hardware, software and modem lines, enabling sick children not only to learn and play, but also to communicate without having to identify themselves.

Nearly 150 computers, including a handful of laptops, are being used in general and rehabilitation hospitals from Nahariya and Sieff in the north to Josephthal in the South.

Kav Or was established by Bilha Piamenta, then deputy director of the Beit Hakerem teachers' seminary, now on early retirement to devote herself to the organization as volunteer director. Among the volunteers who help her are general coordinator Ettie Lahav and pedagogical coordinator Shlomit Barak, along with National Service volunteers, computer experts and retired teachers.

Paid Education Ministry teachers assigned to hospital schools supervise the computer use until about 1:30 p.m. on school days but leave the task to volunteers and hospital staffers during vacations and holidays.

IT all began when a donor to the United Israel Appeal of Canada called its director-general, Dr. Amnon Shinar, offering funds to Kaplan Hospital in Rehovot for "something special." Someone came up with the suggestion of providing young patients, who have a lot of free time to fret about their illness, with computers.

"Some 99,000 children (including babies), teenagers and young adults up to age 21 require hospitalization each year," noted Piamenta in a interview in her postage-stamp office. Their average stay is three to five days, but many of them stay considerably longer.

"There are also 20,000 who come regularly as outpatients for dialysis, radiation treatments and other care. Since most of those aged three to 21 use our computers, we estimate that about 100,000 use our services. They are Jews, Moslems, Christians and Druse; immigrants and sabras, Israelis and Palestinians. No one is left out."

Support comes from the Rashi and Donor Foundations, the UIA of Canada and computer companies, and additional help from Bezeq and the Education Ministry. Companies such as Cellcom are in the process of offering help.

"It costs us $3.10 a day per child for maintenance and communications lines," adds Piamenta.

There is a wide variety of software, some donated by the companies that make them. One of the latest programs to be introduced is aimed at preparing youngsters for an operation. Frame-relay Internet connections are a boon because they allow children to communicate with others in different hospitals.

"For example, a youngster about to undergo a particular operation can contact someone who has already gone through it, ask questions and overcome his fears," the Kav Or volunteers note.

High-schoolers hospitalized for long periods use the computers to catch up on material they need for matriculation exams and can consult with teachers online; younger pupils can keep up with their studies while away from class.

KAV OR hopes soon to introduce a "virtual school," with teachers on the other end of a modem line to help pupils on a one-on-one basis. There are also concrete plans for Bezeq to install videoconference equipment in schools that have pupils hospitalized for long periods so they can participate in lessons – seeing, hearing and conversing with their teachers and classmates.

R., a 15-year-old cancer patient, recalls how much Kav Or's computers boosted her spirit. "Chemotherapy was so difficult. I would think constantly about the treatment, the vomiting and other side effects. And the more I thought about the vomiting, the worse I felt. I felt ill all the time – until I was offered a computer. I really began to feel better once I starting playing with it, because I forgot to think about feeling bad."

Hospital staffers said R. was the "terror of the ward" before the computers arrived. "All of a sudden, the ward became sane again. R. was calmer and more cooperative; however, she appropriated a computer and wouldn't let anyone else have a turn. Then one morning, after a particularly difficult chemotherapy treatment, after she had closeted herself in her room with the computer, she came out and met a fellow patient who had also just come out of a chemo session. 'Here,' she said, handing him the laptop. 'You need this more than I do.' "

D., a 14-year-old Russian immigrant from a broken home, was hospitalized due to extreme malnutrition and growth retardation. He looked like a walking skeleton and exhibited strange, compulsive behavior and severe anorexia. He was hospitalized by court order and slowly, with treatment, began to eat.

But, lacking a friend, the extremely gifted boy was socially isolated – until he discovered the Kav Or computer. He began to use it for hours a day, typing conversations to teenagers his age in other hospitals. He began to smile, overcome his compulsive behavior and gain weight until his height and build were normal. He was discharged to a foster home.

Eight-year-old N., one of seven children in a struggling Ethiopian family, was hospitalized with a malignant tumor. He arrived unable to read or write, and could barely be touched without needing to be put under general anesthesia.

Then a laptop was brought to his bed. He began to play games and learned to use programs with icons. He soon learned to read, went into remission and now cooperates with the treatments as long as he has a computer nearby.

Y. WAS born in Dimona 18 years ago with only one kidney. When he was nine, his remaining kidney seized up and he was put on dialysis at Soroka Hospital in Beersheba, waiting for a kidney transplant; recently, one became available and the operation was a success.

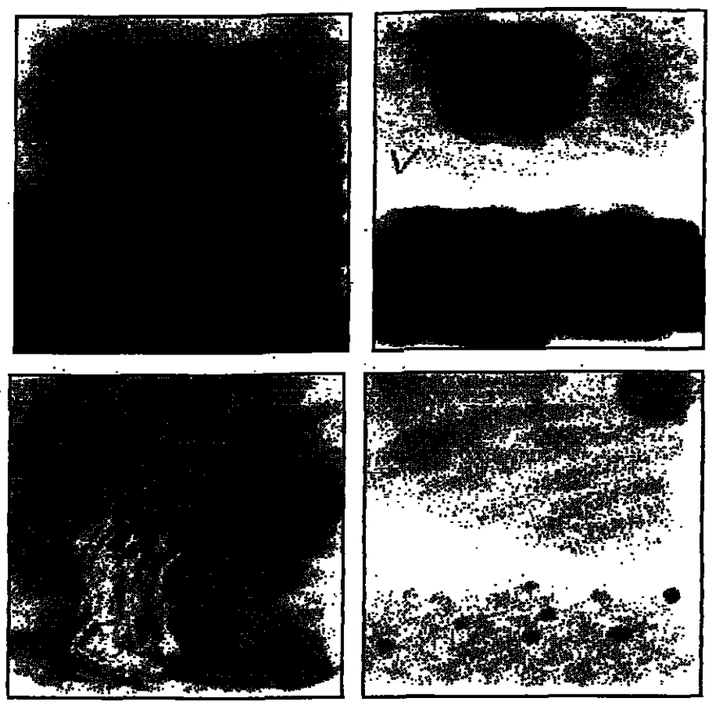
During the last few years of dialysis at Soroka, he had access to a Kav Or computer. A talented artist, he used a drawing program – with a computer mouse as his paintbrush – to express his feelings.

His first drawings depicted himself reclining under a mass of lines, as if he were buried underground. After some time, his mood improved, and he drew himself in a rocking chair, smiling and relaxing.

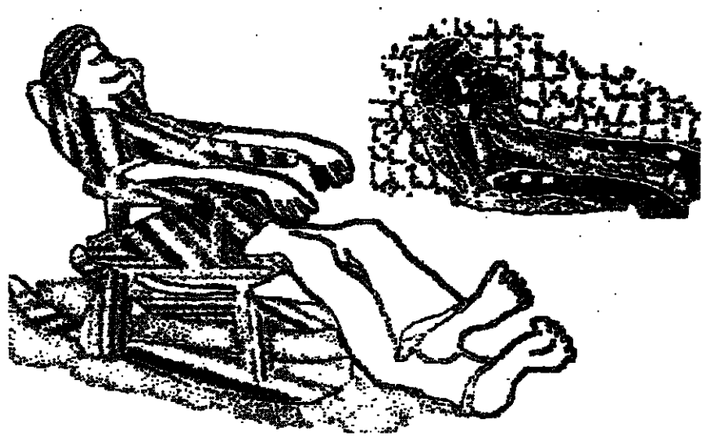
A 17-year-old anorexic girl named N. also drew on the computer to express how she felt. During her first week of hospitalization, globs of black covered nearly the whole screen; two weeks before her release, she produced a colorful, joyful tree and bush. The day she was discharged, she drew a bright scene with grass, flowers and a shining sun.

A., an 11-year-old Arab boy hospitalized at Hadassah's pediatric department for two years, was a very polite child who smiled constantly – too much, according to hospital staffers. They were concerned, because this was not natural in a sick child. Only through the computer did he "let off steam" and show some anger and aggression. He is now doing well, and enjoying music therapy too.

For more information, Kav Or can be contacted at 7 Rehov Hama'agal, POB 3578, Jerusalem 91035, tel. (02) 655-8163 or 655-8163. The fax number is (02) 652-1548. E-mail can be sent to info@kavor.org.il, and a Web site will soon open at www.kavor.org.il. The organization can be contacted in the US through American Friends of David Yellin Teachers' College, 25 West 45th Street, Suite 1405, New York, N.Y. 10036.



A 17-year-old anorexic girl first drew black globs that covered nearly the whole screen (top photos); two weeks before her release, she produced a colorful tree and bush (bottom left). The day she was discharged, she drew a bright scene with grass, flowers and a shining sun.



Y., on dialysis, used a computer mouse as a paintbrush and first depicted himself reclining under a mass of lines, as if buried underground. When his mood improved, he drew himself in a rocking chair, smiling and relaxing.

Putting heart into the weather report

By CAROLE BULLOCK

Some people should follow the weather reports – and not only to find out if they need to take an umbrella to work. Heart patients' health could be affected by abnormal temperatures or atmospheric pressures.

A study presented at the American Heart Association's recent scientific conference in Dallas, Texas, suggests that changes in temperature and atmospheric pressure may be related to an increased risk of heart attack in men.

Researchers at the Lille University School of Medicine in France examined the relationship between weather conditions and heart attacks – fatal and nonfatal – among 250,000 men aged 25 to 64 living in and around their city.

Prof. Philippe Amouyel, a Lille University epidemiologist, reported that a 10° C. decrease in the temperature average for a particular date increased the risk of a first heart attack that day by 13%.

Amouyel says the study results reflect similar trends in heart attack risk for women – but to a lesser extent because of the much lower risk of heart attack observed in general for women than for men in these age classes.

THE French team also noted a possible relationship between atmospheric pressure and heart attacks. Extremes of pressure were associated with increased risk of heart attack regardless of whether the change in pressure was higher or lower.

This trend is called a "V-shaped" relationship, meaning that if the effects of atmospheric pressure were drawn on a graph, the resulting series of points would form the shape of a "V."

"The description of the effect of atmospheric pressure extremes is new," says Amouyel. "The lowest risk was 1,016 millibars – the standard atmospheric pressure at sea level.

When atmospheric pressure rose by 10 millibars above sea level (the right side of the "V"), there was an 11% increase of heart attack rates; when pressure dropped by 10 millibars (left side of the "V"), there was a 12% increase."

"The V-like relationship was observed for fatal, nonfatal and recurrent heart attacks, and for all ages."

The risk of heart attack was significantly greater for people who had suffered a previous heart attack.

When atmospheric pressure dropped 10 millibars below the 1,016 figure, for example, the risk of a recurrent heart attack rose by 30%.

Similarly, a 10-degree drop in temperature was associated with a 38% increased risk of recurrent heart attack – about three times higher than a person's risk of having a first attack.

The findings suggest that at least with regard to temperature, some preventive measures might reduce the risk of heart attack when temperatures turn unusually cold.

For instance, bundling up for winter weather and improving heat insulation in homes may be helpful.

First, however, Amouyel says, "these observations have to be confirmed and new studies designed to analyze the variations of common heart disease and stroke risks with temperature and atmospheric pressure.

THE study was not designed to determine the reason why changes in temperature and atmospheric pressure might affect the risk of heart attack. Previous studies have linked cold weather with higher blood pressure, elevations of certain fats in the blood and fibrinogen, a protein involved in blood clotting. These conditions might make a heart attack more likely, Amouyel says.

A heart attack occurs when blood flow to the heart is blocked by clots or fatty plaque deposits in blood vessels.

Previous studies have linked changes in atmospheric pressure to an increase in the likelihood of a hemorrhagic stroke, one that is caused by bleeding in the brain.

"The usual explanation reported is a variation of blood pressure that could be tied to atmospheric pressure variations," Amouyel says. "This is the first study to report an effect of atmospheric change on the occurrence of heart attacks in the general population, and not just deaths from heart disease."

Amouyel and his colleagues analyzed 10 years of data from the World Health Organization's Monitoring of Trends and Determinants in Cardiovascular Disease study. Called the MONICA Project, this international study focuses on trends, risk factors and treatments for heart disease and stroke.

MONICA researchers tracked the precise date and time of all heart attacks in the Lille area through hospital records, physician contacts and death certificates from 1985 through 1994. They found that the risk of heart attack increased as the temperature dropped below the average for the day, and decreased as temperatures rose above normal.

(American Heart Association)

Gas station workers, tanker drivers at risk from fumes

Health Scan



By Judy Siegel-Itzkovich

Both petrol companies and the government must take action to protect gas station workers and tanker drivers from a carcinogenic compound called benzene found in gasoline, the Knesset State Control Committee has demanded.

Committee chairman MK Yossi Katz, quoting medical studies, said at a recent meeting that long-term exposure to the organic solvent is dangerous; it can harm the kidneys, nervous system and liver and even cause cancer.

Drivers, too, are advised not to stand close to the gas pump when filling up, so they don't breathe in the vapors.

Katz demanded that petrol companies be required to equip tankers with devices to prevent benzene fumes from reaching workers.

He also criticized the Labor and Social Affairs Ministry for failing to take action against fuel companies found with excessive concentrations of benzene at their facilities.

Staffers should undergo periodic medical exams, and anyone found to have signs of high benzene concentrations in his blood should be kept away from the tankers and gas pumps, the chairman said.

Katz also said these changes should be made within 60 days, adding that his committee would hold another session on the matter within three months.

Appearing before the committee was Moshe Haroush, a former tanker driver for Sonol who said he contracted leukemia from benzene and was unable to work.

A Labor Ministry representative said that a new type of tank-filling device is gradually being installed to protect workers from the fumes.

The ministry said it aims at reducing the benzene concentration in gasoline from its present 3 to 5 percent to only 1 percent.

Herbs: What the label says, and what's in the bottle

By SUSAN OKIE

The makers of herbal remedies should improve their manufacturing practices and test their products carefully to ensure that what's inside the bottle matches what's on the label.

In addition, more research is needed on which medicinal herbs work, how they work, and whether they're safe.

These were some of the points on which manufacturers, scientists and regulators attending a recent US government-sponsored conference in Raleigh, North Carolina, appeared to agree.

But they differed on how risky some herbs might be, who should pay for the needed studies and what kind of medical claims firm should be allowed to make for herbal products.

Nobody attending the workshop argued that consumers' interests are well served by the current situation, in which a bewildering array of herbal products are sold as dietary supplements, without any requirement that manufacturers prove they are safe and effective, as they must do for drugs.

Consumer interest in herbal remedies is growing rapidly, stoking a US market that several participants estimated at between $4 billion and $6 billion per year.

"What we're really talking about is biologically active herbs," said Norman Farnsworth, a professor of pharmacognosy, or the study of the properties of medicinal plants, at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

"To call them 'herbal supplements' is kind of a joke," he added in the keynote speech at the meeting, which was sponsored by the National Institutes of Health.

Following several recent reports of contaminated herbal products, as well as a highly critical editorial in *The New England Journal of Medicine*, industry representatives emphasized that they concur with the need for more research and stricter quality control.

"It really is the responsibility of the industry to assure that the safety of products sold is what it should be," said Loren Israelson, executive director of the Utah Natural Products Alliance. "If we disappoint the consumer, we will ultimately not have a business at all."

But Israelson and others predicted supplement makers will not be willing to pay for expensive medical studies of herbs' effectiveness unless they can use the results to make medical claims for herbal remedies.

THE US Food and Drug Administration currently allows supplement manufacturers to say that a product maintains healthy "structure" or "function" of a part of the body, but not that it prevents or treats a disease. Anything that does those things is considered a drug.

This means that even if an ongoing government-funded study eventually concludes that the herbal supplement St. John's wort is effective against depression, manufacturers won't be able to say so, as long as the herb is still considered a supplement.

Only if manufacturers seek drug approval for formulations of St. John's wort could they make medicinal claims.

"You invest $4.3 million to show St. John's wort is a good antidepressant, and what can you put on the label?" asked Farnsworth.

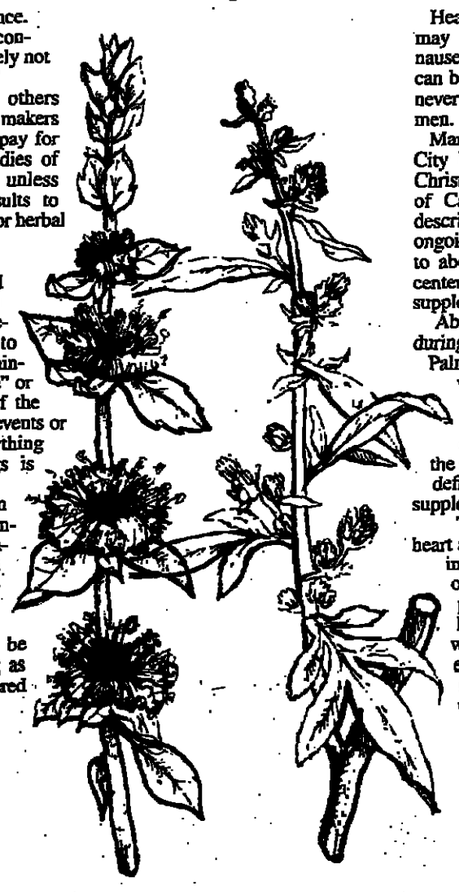
In Germany, some speakers pointed out, herbal remedies are considered drugs and are sold both by prescription and over the counter.

Israelson and other speakers complained that the FDA has been unwilling to consider German research results and consumer experience, and has resisted approving herbal remedies as over-the-counter drugs.

Yuan-Yuan Chiu of the FDA responded that the agency lacks the funds to establish a new advisory panel on herbal products.

MEANWHILE, many consumers don't think of herbal remedies as drugs, and labels often don't warn of possible side effects.

Yet serious and even fatal side effects sometimes occur in people taking herbal remedies.



Pennyroyal (left) contains pulegone, which may cause abortion. In 1978 a Colorado woman trying to end her pregnancy died after taking pennyroyal oil – this herb needs to be carefully prescribed. Health stores, including in Israel, often recommend artemesia or wormwood (right) for pinworms – but it has toxic side effects and should not be taken. (Washington Post illustrations)

Health food stores, for example, may recommend ginger against nausea in pregnancy, but ginger can bring on bleeding and should never be taken by pregnant women.

Mary Palmer of the New York City Poison Control Center and Christine Haller of the University of California at San Francisco described interim results of an ongoing study that looked at calls to about a dozen poison control centers by consumers of herbal supplements.

About 850 such calls occurred during the first half of this year.

Palmer said, 36% from people who had gotten sick after taking herbal products; in 217 cases, poison control center staff concluded that the symptoms were probably or definitely caused by the herbal supplement.

There were two deaths from heart attacks, Palmer said, including cardiac arrest in a 15-year-old soccer player who took a product containing the herbal supplement ephedra without her parents' knowledge. There was a brain hemorrhage in a ginseng user.

There were eight people who had seizures after taking various herbs used as "cultural remedies." There were a few cases of coma, including one in a user of kava kava; and there was a colicky one-month-old baby who stopped breathing after being fed a herbal tea.

There were people who suffered heart abnormalities, liver damage, fevers and allergic reactions.

Industry representatives say such cases are rare.

"Generally, herbs are safe," said Jill Ellis of the National Nutritional Foods Association, an industry organization. "Our task is to make sure that the few toxic plants do not get mixed in with the generally safe ones."

BUT conference participants agreed that scientists in the industry, government and elsewhere need to develop better chemical, biological and botanical methods of preventing contamination of herbal products and of analyzing their contents.

That task is complicated by the fact that herbal extracts usually contain a complex mixture of chemicals – and often no one knows which ones are responsible for the product's effects.

"For the top 20 herbs in the US, we probably cannot say with absolute certainty that we know what the active principle is," said Farnsworth.

Some speakers criticized the FDA for not moving more aggressively against the riskiest herbal products, such as ephedra, which has been associated with about 39 reported deaths.

Janet Weiss, a medical toxicologist at the University of California at San Francisco, said the FDA had received more than 17 reports of deaths in users of teas containing powerful laxatives that are often taken by dieters. Such reports "have precipitated no action from the FDA," she said.

FDA spokesman Ruth Welch countered that there had been nine reported deaths in users of laxative-containing teas in the agency's database. She said the agency had published an article warning of the teas' medical risks in its magazine, *FDA Consumer*, and on its Web site.

She cautioned, however, that neither ephedra nor the diet teas had been confirmed as causing the deaths reported in users.

The US Pharmacopeia, a nonprofit organization that sets purity standards for drugs and vitamins, has published standards for nine popular herbs, including such top sellers as garlic, ginseng, ginkgo, saw palmetto and St. John's wort, said V. Srini Srinivasan, a senior scientist with the organization.

That should help companies create more uniform products and make scientific studies easier.

"But there must be effective enforcement" by the FDA and industry, Srinivasan said. "Without enforcement, these published standards may not mean much."

(The Washington Post)



Hard times in Belarus

Belarusians line up to buy cheap pork during a Christmas sale in a market place in Minsk on Friday. Belarus has been suffering from food shortages, and has introduced food rationing in some regions. (AP)

Amid global volatility, US continues to shine

By CAROLINE BAUM

NEW YORK (Bloomberg) – They live! As financial markets bid a subdued farewell to 1998 after a truly volatile year, irrational exuberance is alive and well and living in that oasis of prosperity, better known as the US economy.

Despite an inauspicious report on third-quarter corporate profits, the S&P 500 Index is at a new high. After-tax profits from current production fell 0.4 percent in the third quarter compared with a year earlier, according to Commerce Department data.

That measure – profits from current production – corresponds with operating earnings reported quarterly by US corporations.

In the third quarter, S&P 500 operating earnings fell 3.1% from a year earlier, the first decline since 1991.

Irrational or not, the stock market is nothing less than exuberant about the prospects for corporate earnings – or the prospect for higher stock prices – next year.

Then there's that oasis of prosperity that simply refuses to dry up despite chronic stagnation in Japan, recessions across the Pacific Rim, and a slowdown in Latin American economies.

In the third quarter the US economy advanced at a real 3.7% rate, according to the Commerce Department. That's slightly slower than the 3.9% rate reported one month ago but it hardly qualifies as a slowdown.

"The perception is that the economy is slowing," says Mike Englund, chief economist at MMS International. "Every once in a while, it's a good idea to look at the data. The fourth quarter is showing widespread strength in sales."

Englund has been raising his growth forecast with each new piece of economic news. As it now stands, he expects real final sales – gross domestic product less inventories – to advance at a 5.7% pace in the current quarter, the fastest pace since the third quarter of 1997. Real final sales rose 2.8% in the third quarter as inventories added almost a full percentage point to real GDP growth.

"You could argue that growth is accelerating," says Englund, who is "leaning towards" revising his fourth-quarter real GDP forecast up to 4.5% from 4% currently.

"You asked me a month ago if that was doable. I think it is."

The revisions to third-quarter GDP growth from last month's report were minor. Downward revisions as a result of a wider trade deficit more than offset upward revisions to residential and non-residential fixed investment.

Nominal GDP growth, which rose 4.7%, was unchanged from the earlier report, suggesting that the downward revision to inflation-adjusted GDP growth was the result of higher prices, not less "stuff."

"The source of the quantity revisions – in trade – was not the same source of the revisions to prices, however," notes John Ryding, senior economist at Bear Stearns & Co.

Like MMS' Englund, Ryding is puzzled by all the talk of a slowdown.

"People keep talking about a slowdown," he says. "There's been no tail-off in demand. A slowdown in 1999? We haven't even slowed down in the past year and a half with everything that's gone on in Asia."

Ryding found encouraging news in corporate profits, as reported in the GDP report, as well. While profits of non-financial corporations fell 1.3% in the third quarter of 1998 versus a year ago, those profits rose at a 10% annualized rate in the third quarter, Ryding says. When the huge increase in third-quarter 1997 profits – up 20.9% – is dropped from the year-over-year calculation, the profits picture will look much better.

"Unit labor costs [for non-financial corporations] rose 1.5% in the third quarter versus a year ago as unit prices fell 0.2%," Ryding says. "The gap will be reconciled. We already have seen the average hourly earnings data from the employment report fall from a 4.4% year-over-year pace to 3.7% last month. And productivity still looks great."

If the profit picture is as upbeat as Ryding believes, that will have implications for the corporate bond market, too.

"The big story when people come back to work in 1999 is going to be the credit worthiness of US corporations," Ryding predicts. Given the still wide spreads, "there's going to be a feeding frenzy in corporate bonds."

The good news last week wasn't limited to a remembrance of things past. The data on new orders for durable goods, a harbinger of future GDP, was stronger than expected, rising 1% in November.

Excluding volatile defense and civilian aircraft, orders rose an even stronger 1.5%.

Orders for non-defense capital goods, a guide to business capital spending, rose 2.2% last month, the first rise since August. Shipments of non-defense capital goods were up a solid 1.2% in November after a 1% October increase.

Economists use shipments of non-defense capital goods to forecast spending on producers' durable equipment, a component of the GDP report. MMS's Englund, assuming a 2.2% decline in this category in December and allowing for a typical 5% decline in prices, comes up with a forecast of a 22% increase in real producers' durable equipment spending in the fourth quarter.

That said, economists aren't ready to declare the manufacturing recession over.

But recent economic data – specifically the September and October trade reports and the Philadelphia Fed's monthly manufacturing survey for December – suggest diminishing headwinds from Asia.

What could that sometime pundit and Fed chief Alan Greenspan be feeling as he and his merry band of men adjourned their final policy meeting of the year yesterday and left interest rates unchanged?

Confidence, perhaps, that the USS Ship of State has weathered the storm with little damage to its hull.

Trepidation, maybe, that another hidden iceberg may lie ahead. And awe that an aging expansion is capable of producing such vibrant growth and tepid inflation.

And don't forget thankful. Alan Greenspan is no doubt thankful that, with the Dow Jones Industrial Average almost 3000 points above the level where he first warned of irrational exuberance, he is running the economy and not equity money.

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Due to the Christmas holiday, there was no stock trading in the US and Europe on Friday.

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Tel Aviv: Jabotinsky, 125 Ibn Gvirol, 546-2040; Superpharm Gimmel, 1 Ahimeir, Ramat Aviv Gimmel, 641-7117.

Ra'anana-Kfar Sava: Haragil, 47 Rothschild, Kfar Sava, 767-0908.

Netanya: Rafa-El, 14 Stamper, 833-1107.

Haifa: Super Pharm (Lev Hamifratz), 53 Ha'atzmaut, 051-582021; New Pharm, 40 Hanita, 052-331013.

Krayot area: Bialik, 15 Sd. Yerushalayim, Kiryat Bialik, 872-1230.

Herzliya: New Pharm, Beit Merkazim, 6 Maskit (cnr. Sderot Hagalim), Herzliya Pituah, 954-9903. Open 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Upper Nazareth: New Pharm, Lev Ha'ir Mall, 657-0468. Open 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.

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Jerusalem: Shaare Zedek (internal, ENT); Bikur Holim (surgery); Hadassah Mt. Scopus (orthopedics, obstetrics); Hadassah Ein Kerem (pediatrics, ophthalmology).

Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv Medical Center Dana Pediatric Hospital (pediatrics); Tel Aviv Medical Center (internal, surgery).

Netanya: Laniado.

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Medical help for tourists (in English) 177-022-9110.

The National Poison Control Center at Rambam Hospital 04-852-9205, 24 hours a day, for information in case of poisoning.

Eran – Emotional First Aid – 1201, also Jerusalem 02-561-0303 (Arabic: 563-0301); Tel Aviv 03-546-1111 (children/youth 546-0739); Rishon Lezion 03-956-6661/2; Haifa 04-867-2222 (Arabic: 867-2226); Beersheba 07-649-4333; Netanya 09-862-5110; Karmiel 04-988-8770 (Arabic: 958-3444); Kfar Sava 09-767-4555; Hadera 06-63[illegible] 6789; Nazareth (Arabic: 06-645-422[illegible]

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Rape Crisis Center (24 hours), Tel Aviv 523-4819, 544-9191 (men), Jerusalem 625-5558, Haifa 853-0533, Eilat 833-1977.

Hadassah Medical Organization – Israel Cancer Association support service, 02-624-7676.

Flight arrivals – for information in English 03-972-3344.

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Doping scandals, bribery, controversy reign supreme in sports in 1998

By BRIAN TRUSDELL

NEW YORK (AP) – Doping and bribery. Scandal, accusations and labor disputes. The image of sport in 1998.

Even the biggest event – the World Cup – was not immune from controversy.

From the red card scare before the World Cup to Ronaldo's mysterious illness before the final, soccer had to deal all sorts of non-game distractions like nearly every other sport.

To cycling's Tour de France goes the doping scandal of the year. Cricket saw bribery allegations against Pakistan's Salim Malik continue – and then had charges leveled against two of his accusers, Australia's Shane Warne and Mark Waugh, about taking controversial payments from an Indian bookmaker.

Baseball had its brouhaha in the US over American home run record breaker Mark McGwire taking a controversial yet allowed dietary supplement, and in Japan about the Fukuoka Daiei Hawks and its manager, legendary home run king Sadaharu Oh, stealing signs.

The NBA locked out its players after the season in June and hasn't played a game since.

English soccer was rocked with a bribery scandal as the year ended, but the biggest mess of all seemed to be when 80-year-old Swiss lawyer and International Olympic Committee member Marc Hodler claimed vote-buying was common in the selection of host cities.

Hodler claimed four "agents" – one an IOC member, had been involved in schemes to buy votes in the election of host cities.

His claims came after a Salt Lake City television station reported the American organizers of the 2002 Winter Games had given $400,000 worth scholarships, some to relatives of IOC members.

The Swiss was the first person within the IOC to support claims of corruption against the Olympic movement. Hodler said he came forth because he didn't want to see Salt Lake City get blamed instead of those on the inside of the IOC.

But everybody seemed to have their own scandal and it was hard to find a sport which wasn't tainted in 1998.

The English Football Association was responsible for soccer's biggest scandal of the year when chief executive Graham Kelly resigned over his and chairman Keith Wiseman's decision to loan the Welsh FA ¢3.2 million.

Kelly and Wiseman acted unilaterally, but denied accusations it was to get the Welsh FA's support for Wiseman for executive committee posts at UEFA and FIFA and England's bid for the World Cup of 2006.

But even before that, soccer had other problems. The bitter election campaign between Sepp Blatter and Lennart Johansson to replace Joao Havelange as president didn't even end after Blatter won.

Johansson accused his opponent of vote-buying the day after the election, getting the new president's term off to an inauspicious start.

The World Cup, which many feared would look like a May Day parade in Red Square with FIFA's directive to referees to punish any tackle from behind with an ejection, started out like any of the other quadrennial championships.

But midway through the tournament, after Blatter publicly said referees should be less tolerant of fouling, a flurry of reds emerged, including three in the South Africa-Denmark game.

The French were largely ambivalent to their team until it reached and eventually won the final, celebrating non-stop for more than 24 hours. But the reason for their joy was set off by the great World Cup mystery – Ronaldo.

The two-time FIFA Player of the Year was supposed to be center stage for Brazil's unprecedented fifth title, but instead wasn't even listed on the lineup – even as a reserve – distributed to the media more than hour before kickoff.

Fifteen minutes later a new lineup was issued, this time with the shaven-headed 21-year-old as Brazil's starting forward. He should have stayed in the locker room. He played listlessly and the rest of the Brazilians looked confused and rudderless, resulting in France's 3-0 victory and a first ever triumph.



THE GREAT UNSOLVED MYSTERY OF 1998 – What happened to Ronaldo before the World Cup final? (Reuters)

It was later revealed by coach Mario Zagallo that during the afternoon Ronaldo had vomited and was taken to the hospital.

When asked why Ronaldo still played, Zagallo went into a rage and theories grew like germs, including one that team sponsor Nike – which also uses Ronaldo as a spokesman – ordered Zagallo to play him.

Zdenek Zemen, the coach of Italian soccer club AS Roma, sparked a doping scandal by suggesting some star players were taking performance enhancing drugs. Several high-ranking officials are under investigation for allegedly concealing the results of positive tests.

But in a scandal plagued year, soccer was one of the lesser offenders.

Besides the Olympics, cycling took the biggest beating thanks to the doping madness than engulfed the Tour de France.

While suspicions have been rampant about the sport for years, 1998 confirmed what many already believed. Three days before the start of the race, the Festina team masseur was caught with massive quantities of performance-enhancing drugs, including the undetectable blood agent EPO.

Before it was over, police had raided cyclists rooms, the competitors staged a strike and seven teams were driven from the race.

Besides Hodler's accusations, the Olympics in Nagano, Japan, had its own doping controversy when Canadian snowboarder Ross Rebagliati won the giant slalom gold, but then had it taken away because he tested positive for marijuana.

He claimed he tested positive because of second-hand smoke and an appeals panel restored his medal.

Of course the whole year started out with a doping scandal when Chinese swimmer Yuan Yuan was caught entering Australia for the World Championships with more than a little Human Growth Hormone (HGH).

After dominating the 1994 championships in Rome with 16 golds and 28 medals overall, the Chinese were expected to be a big presence. But after Yuan was caught, she and her coach were sent home in disgrace and the Chinese returned to Beijing with only six golds and more accusations about systematic doping.

Cricket's woes revolved largely around three players, Malik, Warne and Waugh.

Malik has been under suspicion for three years after Warne, Waugh and Australian teammate Tim May accused him of trying to bribe them during a 1994 tour of Pakistan.

The latest inquiry into the matter saw Waugh testify in Pakistan in October, but the matter took a peculiar twist when in December it was revealed that Warne and Waugh accepted money from an Indian bookmaker during a 1994 tour of Sri Lanka.

The money supposedly was for pitch and weather information, but the oddest revelation was that the Australian board not only was aware, but fined the pair and never disclosed the matter.

Baseball had its problems as Dominican Sammy Sosa and McGwire battled almost until the final day to break Roger Maris' single-season US Major League Baseball home run record of 61. McGwire eventually prevailed with 70, but discovery that he was taking the muscle-building supplement androstenedione for more than a year led some to say the mark was tainted. The substance, which has been associated with some of the same negative side effects as steroids, is banned by the IOC and some other sports organizations but is not prohibited by MLB.

Japanese baseball's scandal seemed less nefarious, at least to Americans, who consider sign-stealing almost like a badge of honor.

A 10-day internal investigation by the Hawks said it found no evidence club personnel were sitting in the stands with binoculars, intercepting the catcher's signs and relaying them by wireless radio to another person who would signal the batter as to what pitch to expect.

For fans of the NBA, after the Chicago Bulls won their sixth title in eight years in June the only thing for them to read about was the "lockout". Club owners essentially have gone on strike until a new collective bargaining agreement with the players union is reached. The biggest problem was how to divide about $2 billion in revenue and with neither side budging, the NBA hasn't played a game this season and doesn't appear likely to anytime soon.

Otherwise, teams did win, lose and draw. Egypt won its fourth African Cup, South Africa won the Tri-Nations rugby title and went on to a record-equalling 18 straight Test victories, and Finland's Mika Hakkinen brought McLaren the Formula One title for the first time since 1991 when the late Ayrton Senna was driving for the team.

The Olympics produced their own heroes. Norway's Bjorn Daehlie became the Winter Games' all-time gold medal winner; Japanese Masahiko Harada and Kazuyoshi Funaki exorcised a four-year-old demon when they combined with Takanobu Okabe and Hiroya Saito to win the team ski jumping; and goalie Dominik Hasek carried the Czech Republic on his hot glove to the ice hockey crown.

But the year started with scandal to cast a morning shadow on sports, and as the sun set on 1998, several more left little light to shine on its champions.

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Rain washes out first day of Boxing Day Test

MELBOURNE (Reuters) – Rain washed out the opening day of the fourth Ashes cricket Test between Australia and England yesterday without a single ball being bowled.

Play was abandoned almost two hours before the scheduled finish after a day of persistent showers and drizzle at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

Officials said an extra hour would be added to each of the remaining four days of the match, although more rain has been forecast.

The decision to abandon play cost the Australian Cricket Board (ACB) an estimated A$1.0 million (US$610,000) in revenue on what is traditionally the biggest day on the country's cricket calendar.

Crowds exceeding 70,000 are commonplace on the opening day of the annual Boxing Day Test. At least 50,000 turned up yesterday, paying A$20 a ticket despite the poor weather, and were told they would be given full refunds because a minimum of 12 overs had not been bowled.

The rain began falling shortly before the two captains went out for the toss. It stopped long enough for Australian captain Mark Taylor to win it for the fourth time in the series and he sent in the tourists in to bat, before the brooding skies opened up again.

Ground staff immediately covered the square in the hope that the showers would pass but the rain persisted for another five hours.

Umpires Daryl Harper and Steve Bucknor eventually inspected the pitch at 4.15 p.m. local time after the rain momentarily eased up before calling an end to the day with the outfield soaked.

The bad weather proved particularly frustrating for England's Warren Hegg and Australia's Matthew Nicholson after they had been selected to make their Test debuts.

Hegg, England's reserve wicketkeeper, was called in when captain Alec Stewart decided to focus on his batting after combining his captaincy duties with batting and also wearing the gloves in the first three Tests.

Hegg replaced batsman John Crawley, who was named 12th man, in one of two changes to the side that lost in Adelaide, ensuring Australia retained the Ashes. Paceman Angus Fraser was also recalled after missing the last two Tests, replacing off-spinner Peter Such.

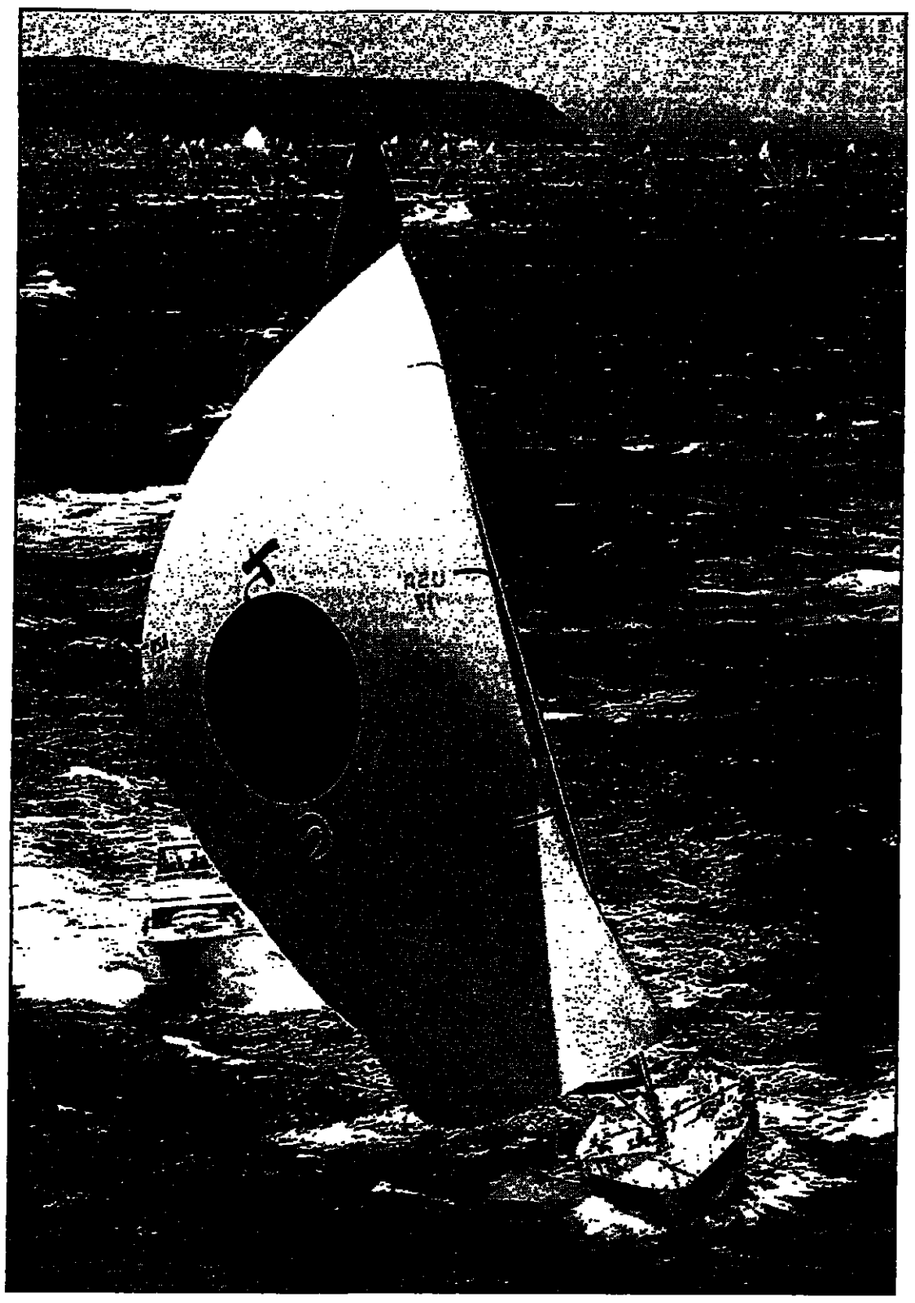
"This is the ultimate. There's no bigger place in the world to make your Test debut, apart from may be Lord's," Hegg said.

"When they didn't toss the first time because of the rain I was a bit worried because I realized they could still change the side and I could miss out. But whatever happens now, they can't take my England cap away from me."

Nicholson, who has played just seven first-class matches, was awarded his first cap at the expense of all-rounder Colin Miller who was chosen to carry the drinks for Australia.

Nicholson's career was in tatters a year ago after he contracted Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, but the 24-year-old recovered to emerge as one of Australia's most promising fast bowlers.

He has taken 17 wickets in four Sheffield Shield matches this season and claimed seven wickets in an innings in Western Australia's drawn tour match against England last month.



PACESETTER – US Maxi yacht 'Sayonara' sets off from Sydney at the start of the race to Hobart yesterday. (Reuters)

Neck-and-neck battle in Sydney-Hobart race

SYDNEY (Reuters) – Three of the biggest yachts in the Sydney-Hobart were surfing neck-and-neck down Australia's east coast late yesterday as the 115-strong fleet prepared for galeforce winds expected overnight.

US maxi *Sayonara* and Australian maxis *Brindabella* and *Marchioness* were setting a race record pace for the bluewater classic as they revelled in northeasterly winds of up to 20 knots ahead of an expected strong southerly change.

"We have three boats racing virtually abreast," race spokesman Peter Campbell said.

Sayonara, helmed by America's Cup ace Chris Dickson, was the first boat out of Sydney Harbor after the start and set its spinnaker as it led the fleet south into the Tasman Sea for the 630-nautical mile race.

Defending champion *Brindabella*, a noted downwind flyer, needed only two hours to catch and pass *Sayonara* which is better suited to upwind sailing.

However, the white-hulled *Sayonara* fought back and the pair were soon joined by giant sloop *Marchioness* which also enjoys sailing with the wind after undergoing major modifications since it was built for the 1993 Cape Town to Rio Race.

Campbell said all three had reported their positions on the same latitude after covering 105 miles in seven-and-a-half hours at an average of 14 knots – well ahead of the speed needed to break the record set in 1996 by German maxi *Morning Glory*.

The trio were comfortably ahead of new Australian maxi *Wild Thing* with the best of the smaller boats still further back.

Sayonara won in 1995 but her performance was eclipsed the following year when *Morning Glory* set a new mark of two days 14 hours seven minutes 10 seconds, breaking a race record which had stood for 21 years.

Ellison has described his yacht as the "fastest upwind boat ever built in history" and was looking forward to strong headwinds to push *Sayonara* across Bass Strait, a notoriously rough stretch of water leading to Tasmania.

SPORTS *in brief*

Armstrong sets British playing record

GLASGOW (Reuters) – Graeme Armstrong of Scottish third division side Stenhousemuir set a British record for an outfield player when he made the 864th appearance of his career against East Stirling yesterday.

Armstrong, 42, beat the previous record of 863 matches established by Tommy Hutchison in 1991.

Former England goalkeeper Peter Shilton still holds the all-time appearance record of 1005 matches in his playing career which spanned the years 1966 to 1997.

Armstrong made his first appearance for Meadowbank Thistle in 1975 and has also played for Berwick Rangers. To mark the occasion, Stenhousemuir reduced their admission prices for yesterday's match to 1975 prices of £1.5.

Dortmund sign Inter 'keeper Jens Lehmann

DORTMUND (AP) – Borussia Dortmund announced yesterday the Bundesliga club has ended months of effort by finally getting Inter Milan keeper Jens Lehmann.

The German international, a backup at the Italian club, will transfer for $4.3 million and sign a three-year contract.

Lehmann replaces his national team rival Stefan Klos, who agreed to terms with the Glasgow Rangers shortly before Christmas.

Liverpool ranked as best-ever English club

LONDON (Reuters) – Liverpool have been ranked as the best English soccer club ever according to an all-time league table published by *The Times* newspaper yesterday.

By allocating points for a club's achievements in European competition, league competitions, the FA and League Cups and weighting the points according to seperate playing eras, Liverpool emerge top of the table with 6,380 points, followed by Manchester United (5,360), Arsenal (4,065), Tottenham Hotspur (3,390) and Everton (3,165) – the traditional Big Five of English soccer.

Aston Villa, who have led the premier league for most of this season, are in sixth place (2,755), followed by Leeds United (2,305), Wolverhampton Wanderers (2,180), Nottingham Forest (1,840) and Newcastle United (1,750).

Preston North End, giants of the early days of English soccer and winners of the Cup and League double in the league's first season of 1888-89 are ranked as high as 19th, with their old Lancashire rivals Burnley, who, like Preston are now in the second division, ranked 18th.

Manchester City's rapid decline over the last few years from a premier league to a second division club is best illustrated by their all-time ranking of 14th – higher than many current premier league clubs including Derby County (16th), Blackburn (17th) and West Ham (20th).

The exploits of some long-forgotten giants of the past are also reflected in the standings.

The Wanderers, the first FA Cup winners in 1872 who won all five FA Cup finals they played in in the 1870s before disappearing long before the turn of the last century, are ranked 35th – higher than current premier league clubs Charlton Athletic and Middlesbrough, while Old Etonians, Oxford University and Royal Engineers, all cup winners over a century ago, are all in the top 50.

The top 20 clubs in *The Times* table and their points tallies are: 1 Liverpool (6,380), 2 Manchester United (5,360), 3 Arsenal (4,065), 4 Tottenham Hotspur (3,390), 5 Everton (3,165), 6 Aston Villa (2,755), 7 Leeds United (2,305), 8 Wolverhampton Wanderers (2,180), 9 Nottingham Forest (1,840), 10 Newcastle United (1,750), 11 Sheffield Wednesday (1,730), 12 Chelsea (1,670), 13 Sunderland (1,660), 14 Manchester City (1,635), 15 West Bromwhich Albion (1,405), 16 Derby County (1,245), 17 Blackburn Rovers (1,180), 18 Burnley (1,140), 19 Preston North End (1,110), 20 West Ham United (1,025).

Call for life bans on Warne, Waugh

KARACHI (Reuters) – A call for life bans on Shane Warne and Mark Waugh is to be made by Pakistan, India and Sri Lanka when world cricket chiefs meet next month to discuss bribery and corruption in the sport.

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Khalid Mahmood said yesterday the three countries would be pushing for bans at the International Cricket Council (ICC) meeting in Christchurch, New Zealand, on January 10-11.

Australian Test pair Warne and Waugh recently admitted taking money from an Indian bookmaker for information on pitch and weather conditions during a one-day tournament in Sri Lanka in 1994.

Mahmood said: "The subcontinent was unanimous that the guilty players should be banned for life when we met at New Delhi 10 days ago.

"At least three countries (Pakistan, India and Sri Lanka) will be pressing the ICC to step in, investigate the charges and clamp life bans on those found guilty." Mahmood said any ban would have to be approved by a majority of the nine ICC executive board members.

"Lets see if the majority favours life bans," he added.

Former Australian Test batsman Neil Harvey is among others who have called for two-year bans on Waugh and Warne.

Two days before the ICC meeting, Waugh and Warne are to appear before a Pakistan inquiry which will sit in Australia to take testimony from the pair as part of an investigation into bribery and match-fixing in Pakistan cricket.

PCB legal adviser Ali Sibtain Fazli and Lahore High Court Registrar Abdus Salam Khawar will travel to Australia to hear their testimony because Waugh and Warne were reluctant to travel to Pakistan and attempts to set up a live video link failed.

The pair have accused former Pakistan captain Salim Malik of offering them bribes to play poorly during Australia's tour of Pakistan in 1994.

Waugh testified before the inquiry in October when Australia were touring Pakistan, but investigating judge Malik Qayyum said he needed to be interviewed again following his admission about accepting money from a bookmaker.

Warne has made similar allegations but did not testify as he missed the recent tour of Pakistan because he was recovering from shoulder surgery.

Malik has denied the charges and says Warne's and Waugh's admission over the Indian bookmaker prove his innocence.

Waugh and Warne were secretly fined by the Australian Cricket Board (ACB) in early 1995 but the incident was covered up until an Australian newspaper broke the story earlier this month, causing the ACB to be accused of double standards.

PCB chief executive Majid Khan criticized the ACB yesterday, saying: "It is very unfortunate the way ACB covered up the issue and only fined the two cricketers. Had the ACB informed us at that time, a joint probe by the two boards could have been conducted to resolve the issue."

The ACB has since announced its own investigation into cricket and betting would begin on January 12 and last about three weeks.

Parcells works miracles with Jets

HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. (AP) – The deepest black hole in the NFL galaxy was centered on Long Island. No matter how much talent went in, nothing but losses and ridicule came out.

Into this disaster area known as the New York Jets stepped Bill Parcells, fresh from a Super Bowl appearance and coming off an ugly split with the New England Patriots.

This was not unlike other challenges Parcells had met. He understands how low you can go and how high you can soar.

He now has the Jets soaring into the playoffs as a legitimate championship contender.

How did he do it? How did he turn a franchise that had never even won an NFL division crown into AFC East champions? How did he mold a team that went 3-13 and 1-15 in its previous two seasons – both league worsts – into a club that entered the finale with a playoff bye and a gaudy 11-4 record? "The man is a winner," said wide receiver Keyshawn Johnson, who is finishing his first Pro Bowl season. "He's won everywhere he goes. He knows what it takes and he makes his players understand that." The first assignment for Parcells was to get rid of the negativism surrounding the team. Even before they imploded under Rich Kotite, the Jets were considered underachievers.

Parcells recognized there were some talented players on the roster, but they lacked discipline and only a few of them took conditioning seriously. He began an offseason training program that nearly every player attended.

Kotite ran a training camp that resembled a country club.

Parcells turned it into a boot camp, and he made sure his players understand what it took to win.

"The things that cause you to lose never change," said Parcells, the first Jets coach with a winning record. "In the history of this game, it never changes.

"I don't play players who do dumb things. Dumb players do dumb things. Smart players very rarely do dumb things. You have to have some behavioral team discipline, and if the team does not demonstrate that behavior reasonably consistently, it will cause you to lose games." When the Jets took a 27-3 lead at halftime of their 1997 opener against Seattle, Parcells didn't praise them in the locker room. He ranted and raved about how the Jets usually blew leads and how this team had to prove it wasn't the "same old Jets." They weren't, beating the Seahawks 41-3.

Although they faded down the stretch last season, losing in Detroit in the season finale to fall a game short of the playoffs at 9-7, there was a positive air surrounding the team.

"It was a start," said Parcells, who also guided the Giants and Patriots into the playoffs in his second years with them. "I think the players believe in the program and in what we were trying to get across to them as coaches." Then Parcells, long considered a fine coach and strategist but not much of a personnel man, proved himself as a talent evaluator.

He signed star running back Curtis Martin away from New England for six years and $36 million, costing the Jets first-round and third-round draft picks this year as compensation.

He brought in veterans such as Keith Byars, Kevin Mawae, Vinny Testaverde and Bryan Cox. All have had significant impacts as locker-room leaders and on-field performers.

Parcells rebuilt the offensive line, which has been solid all year. He admits he got lucky there, because center Mawae has been "everything we expected and more," and rookie Jason Fabini has been a standout at right tackle.

He entrusted the defense to assistant Bill Belichick, as he always does, and Belichick has hidden the lack of strength up front with brilliant scheming and situational substitutions.

"Belichick puts us in a position where we can do our best, a position to make winning plays," said linebacker Mo Lewis, who also made his first Pro Bowl this year. "The coaches come up with the game plans that we can execute to win games." After losing their first two and three of five with Glenn Foley as the starting quarterback, Parcells turned to Testaverde. The 1986 Heisman Trophy winner and '87 top overall draft choice has had a checkered, disappointing NFL career. But with the Jets, he's played like the star he was projected to be and leads the AFC in passer ratings.

New York is 11-1 with Testaverde at quarterback. He has 25 touchdown passes and only six interceptions.

Cox also has been a revelation. He signed in August and was a starter by mid-September at outside linebacker after an injury to James Farrior. Farrior never got back into the lineup, and Cox, along with Lewis and Aaron Glenn, has been the Jets best defender.

He also is one of the most insightful Jets. He gets right to the essence of what makes Parcells so popular with his players.

"If you are a veteran, he doesn't try to kill you or disrespect you," Cox said. "I appreciate that you can talk to him and he will talk to me. I'm not a kid who needs to be yelled at.

"Some other coaches are quick to yell at players and I don't need that. He understands the time I've put in in this league and he turns to you as a veteran for leadership." So far, Parcells has made all the right moves for a coach-killing franchise. Is he allowing himself some time to reap the rewards? "I've learned in this league, you have to think about this practice, the next practice and then what you do in the game," he said. "Players can get distracted, coaches get distracted. I am not like that anymore, and neither are my coaches. I don't allow myself to get distracted."

Marshall blasts West Indies batsmen

DURBAN (Reuters) – West Indies coach Malcolm Marshall lambasted his batsmen for another poor performance on the opening day of the third Test against South Africa yesterday.

"We've played two test matches and one innings and we've batted badly in every one of them," an angry Marshall said.

"I didn't think the South African bowling was particularly good and it was the best wicket to bat on so far this series." West Indies, put in to bat after losing the toss, were dismissed for 198 in 71.1 overs. South Africa, 2-0 up in the five-match series, were 46 for nought at the close.

South African support bowlers Hansie Cronje, who took a career-best three for 19, and Jacques Kallis, with three for 18, skittled out the West Indies after Philo Wallace and Junior Murray had shared an opening stand of 50.

"We were 50 for none against Allan Donald and Shaun Pollock, their best bowlers, and then we lost 10 wickets for 148," Marshall said.

"On that sort of surface that's just bad batting – a lack of application and poor shot selection – as it has been for most of the tour.

"You can't score runs if you don't spend time at the crease." Marshall refused to divert the blame for the low West Indies' totals in the series away from the specialist batsmen.

"You can't expect number eight, nine, 10 and 11 to do batsmen's jobs," he said.

"The South African top order batsmen have also not done their jobs, so they're relying on the other players to pull them out of (trouble) all the time."

British soccer results and standings

Premier League: Arsenal 1, West Ham 0; Blackburn 2, Aston Villa 1; Coventry 1, Tottenham 1; Everton 0, Derby 0; Manchester United 3, Nottingham Forest 0; Middlesbrough 1, Liverpool 3; Newcastle 0, Leeds 3; Sheffield Wednesday 0, Leicester 1; Southampton 0, Chelsea 2; Wimbledon 2, Charlton 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Chelsea	19	9	9	1	31	17	36
Aston Villa	19	10	6	3	29	19	36
Manchester United	19	9	7	3	39	23	34
Leeds	19	8	8	3	32	17	32
Arsenal	19	8	8	3	21	11	32
Middlesbrough	19	7	9	3	31	24	30
West Ham	19	8	5	6	22	23	29
Wimbledon	19	8	5	6	25	30	29
Liverpool	19	8	4	7	32	23	28
Leicester	19	7	6	6	22	20	27
Derby	19	5	10	4	18	17	25
Newcastle	19	6	6	7	22	24	24
Tottenham	19	6	6	7	24	29	24
Everton	19	5	8	6	12	17	23
Sheffield Wednesday	19	6	4	9	20	20	22
Blackburn	19	4	5	10	19	27	17
Coventry	19	4	5	10	16	27	17
Charlton	19	3	7	9	23	30	16
Southampton	19	3	4	12	15	37	13
Nottingham Forest	19	2	6	11	17	35	12

Scottish Premier: Dunfermline 1, Aberdeen 2; Kilmarnock 1, Hearts 0; Motherwell 2, Dundee United 0; Rangers 1, St. Johnstone 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rangers	19	12	4	3	35	16	40
Kilmarnock	20	10	7	3	28	11	37
Celtic	19	8	6	5	39	20	30
St Johnstone	20	7	8	5	23	26	29
Motherwell	20	6	7	7	19	26	25
Hearts	20	6	5	9	21	27	23
Aberdeen	20	6	5	9	21	30	23
Dundee	18	5	5	8	17	25	20
Dundee United	20	4	7	9	18	24	19
Dunfermline	20	2	10	8	16	32	16

Premier League: Arsenal 1, West Ham 0; Blackburn vs. Aston Villa late game; Coventry 1, Tottenham 1; Everton 0, Derby 0; Manchester United 3, Nottingham Forest 0; Middlesbrough 1, Liverpool 3; Newcastle 0, Leeds 3; Sheffield Wednesday 0, Leicester 1; Southampton 0, Chelsea 2; Wimbledon 2, Charlton 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sunderland	25	15	8	2	53	16	53
Ipswich	25	14	6	5	36	15	48
Watford	25	12	7	6	43	35	43
Birmingham	25	12	6	7	38	24	42
Bradford	24	12	5	7	42	27	41
Huddersfield	25	12	5	8	37	40	41
Bolton	24	10	10	4	44	32	40
Norwich	24	11	7	6	39	32	40
Grimsby	25	11	5	9	30	29	38
West Brom	25	11	4	10	46	42	37
Sheffield United	25	9	7	9	37	41	34
Wolves	25	9	7	9	34	27	34
Barnsley	25	8	9	8	36	33	33
Crystal Palace	24	9	6	9	36	40	33
Swindon	25	8	6	11	35	40	30
Tranmere	25	6	12	7	32	35	30
Stockport	25	6	11	8	30	32	29
Queens Park Rangers	25	8	5	12	28	34	29
Bury	25	7	7	11	21	31	28
Port Vale	25	7	4	14	29	48	25
Portsmouth	25	6	6	13	32	42	24
Oxford United	25	6	5	14	27	48	23
Bristol City	25	4	8	13	24	53	20
Crewe	25	4	6	15	27	50	18

Division Two: Blackpool 1, Wigan 1; Chesterfield 1, Oldham 3; Fulham 2, Colchester 0; Lincoln City 1, Macclesfield 0; Millwall 1, Bournemouth 2; Notts County 3, Northampton 1; Stoke 0, Preston 1; Walsall 2, Wycombe 2; Wrexham 0, Manchester City 1; York 3, Burnley 3.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Fulham	22	15	3	4	35	16	48
Walsall	23	14	4	5	35	26	46
Stoke	23	14	2	7	30	17	44
Preston	22	11	7	4	38	22	40
Gillingham	22	9	10	3	33	18	37
Bournemouth	21	10	6	5	34	22	36
Manchester City	23	8	9	6	26	21	33
Chesterfield	22	9	6	7	23	18	33
Millwall	23	8	8	7	23	25	32
Wigan	23	8	7	8	29	23	31
Reading	21	8	7	6	25	27	31
Blackpool	23	7	9	7	28	28	30
Luton	20	8	6	6	27	23	30
York	23	7	7	9	31	40	28
Colchester	22	6	8	8	21	27	26
Bristol Rovers	22	5	10	7	24	25	25
Wrexham	23	6	7	10	21	30	25
Notts County	22	6	6	10	26	33	24
Burnley	23	6	6	11	25	39	24
Northampton	23	5	9	9	22	26	24
Oldham	23	5	6	12	23	36	21
Macclesfield	23	4	9	10	19	29	21
Wycombe	23	4	8	11	22	29	20
Lincoln City	23	4	4	15	22	42	16

Division Three: Barnet 1, Plymouth 1; Brighton 3, Brentford 1; Cambridge United 3, Rotherham 2; Cardiff 3, Shrewsbury 0; Exeter 1, Torquay 1; Halifax 0, Darlington 0; Hull 1, Chester 2; Leyton Orient 1, Swansea 1; Mansfield 3, Scarborough 2; Rochdale 1, Carlisle 1; Scunthorpe 1, Hartlepool 0; Southend 2, Peterborough 0.

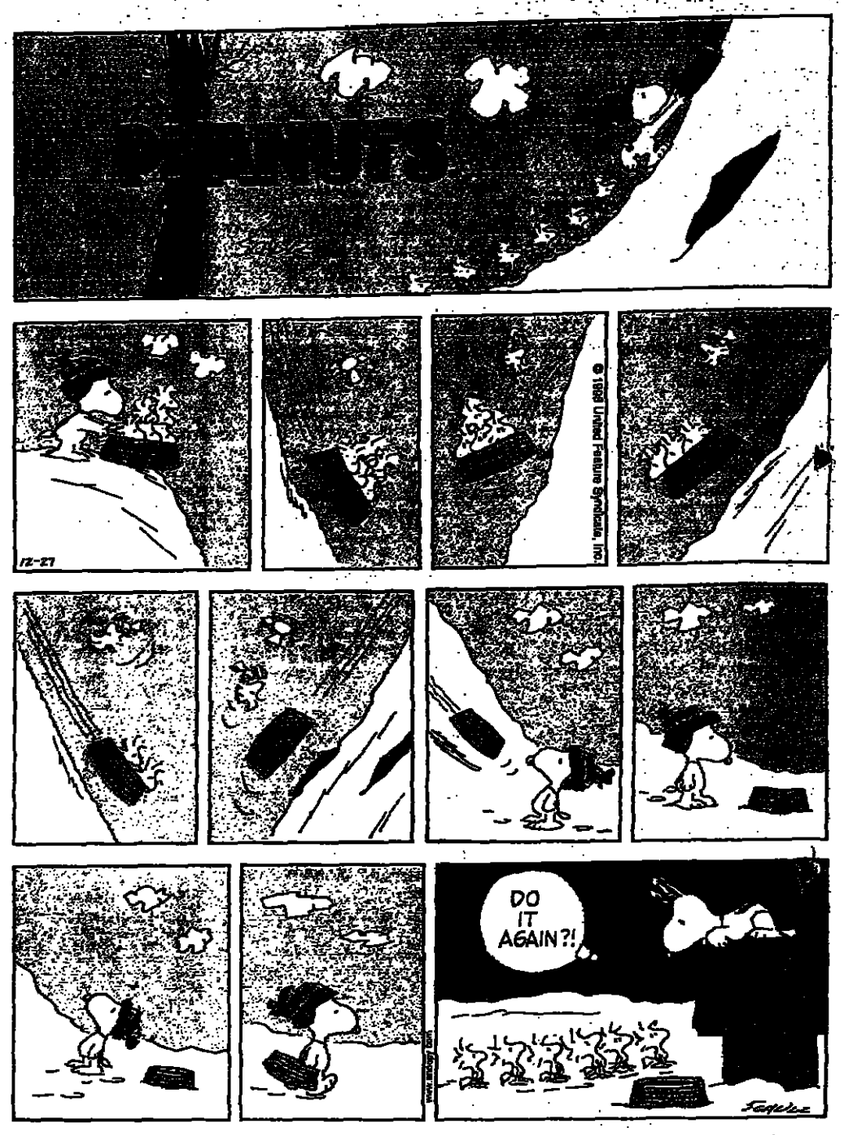
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cardiff	23	14	4	5	32	18	46
Mansfield	23	12	4	7	37	29	40
Brentford	21	13	0	8	37	29	39
Cambridge United	22	12	3	7	36	27	39
Halifax	23	10	8	5	31	20	38
Peterborough	23	11	3	9	39	30	36
Scunthorpe	23	11	3	9	37	38	36
Leyton Orient	23	9	8	6	29	27	35
Brighton	23	11	1	11	32	32	34
Rotherham	23	9	6	8	42	35	33
Darlington	21	9	5	7	30	24	32
Swansea	22	8	8	6	27	22	32
Plymouth	22	9	4	9	26	21	31
Chester	22	7	9	6	30	31	30
Southend	23	8	6	9	30	32	30
Rochdale	22	7	8	7	22	24	29
Barnet	23	8	4	11	28	40	28
Exeter	22	7	6	9	22	25	27
Hartlepool	23	7	4	12	32	38	25
Torquay	23	5	10	8	25	31	25
Carlisle	21	6	6	9	19	23	24
Shrewsbury	23	6	6	11	17	29	24
Scarborough	23	6	3	14	25	37	21
Hull	23	4	3	16	19	42	15

THE JERUSALEM POST

Sunday Comics

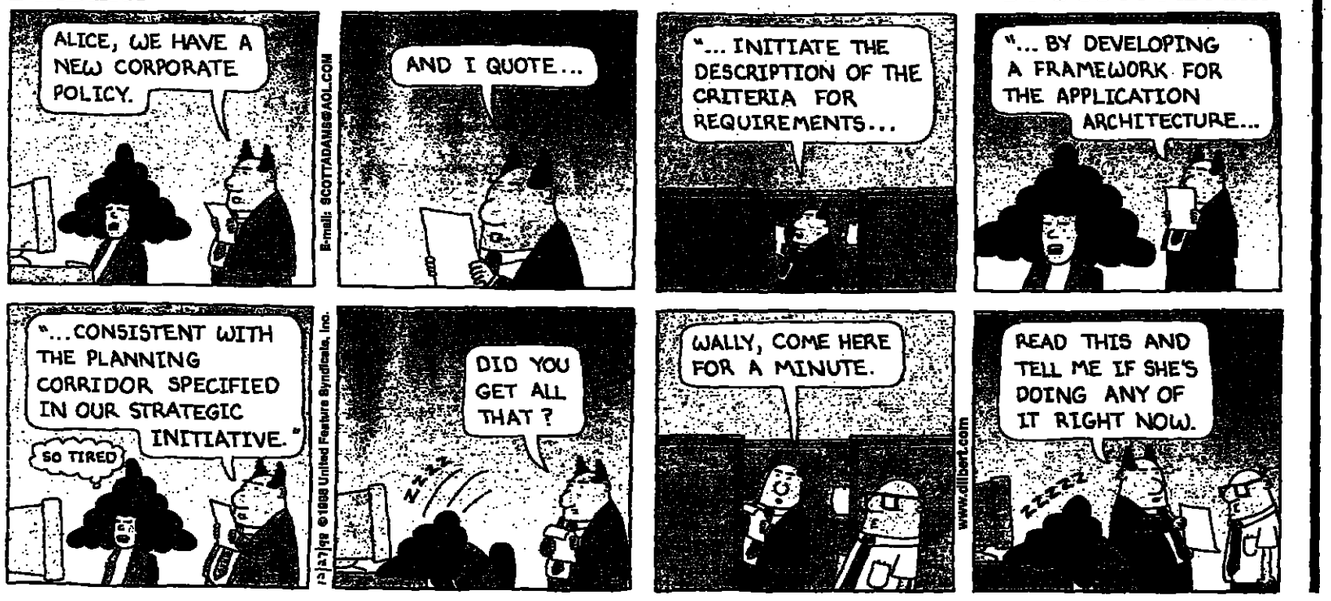
December 27, 1998





DILBERT

BY SCOTT ADAMS



Doonesbury

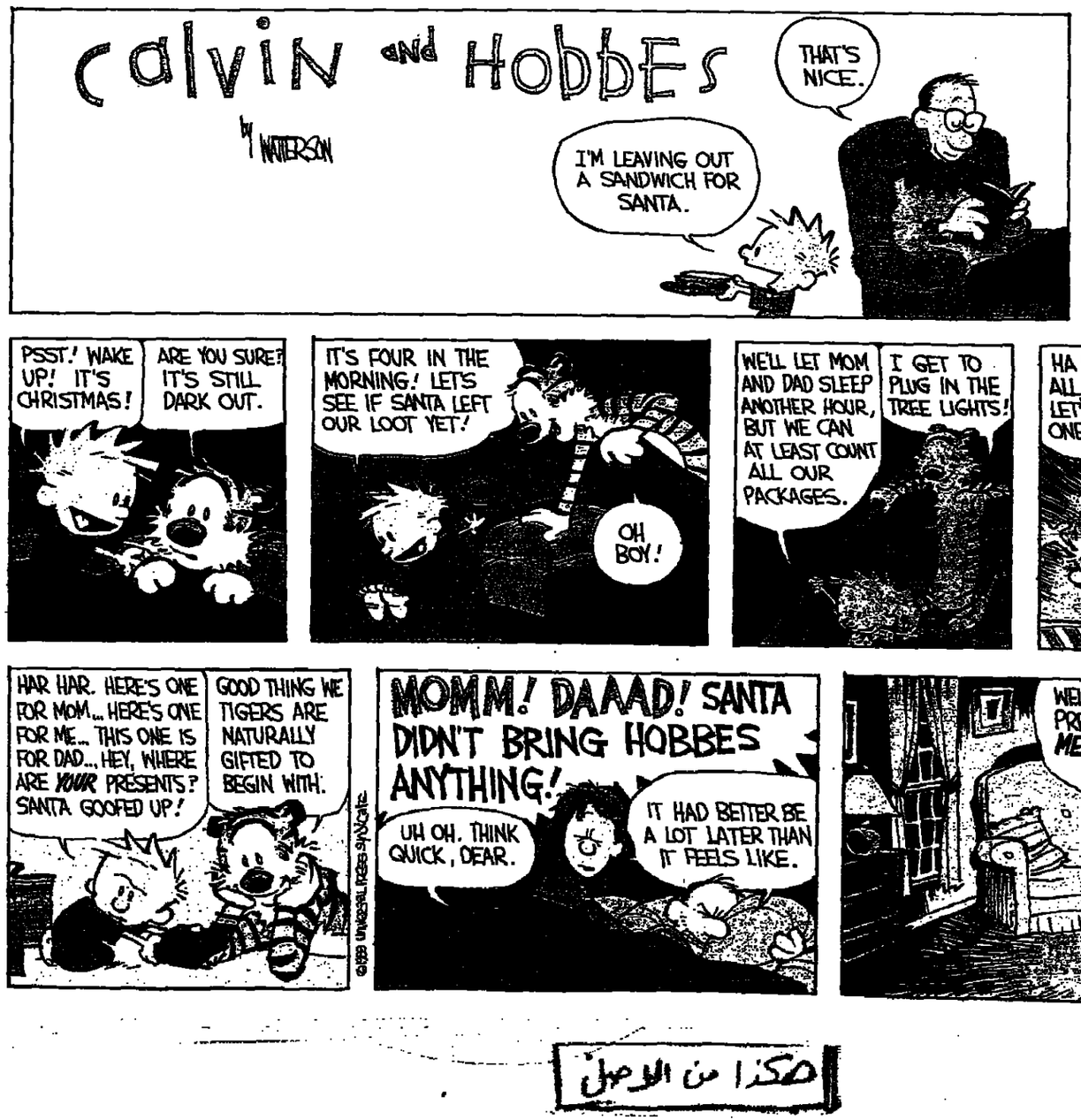
BY G.B. TRUDEAU

CATHY

BY CATHY GUISEWITE

calvin and Hobbes

by WATTERSON



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CRITICS' CHOICE

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Itzhak Perlman conducts the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra in the overture to Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro* and the Tchaikovsky String Serenade. He also plays the solo part in the Second Romance for Violin by Beethoven and in Mozart's Adagio and Rondo for Violin and Orchestra. The violinist's daughter, Nava Perlman, plays Beethoven's Third Piano Concerto. Tonight and tomorrow at the Mann Auditorium in Tel Aviv and Tuesday night at the Haifa Auditorium. All at 8:30.

Members of the Ensemble Intercontemporain from Paris will present a special workshop for contemporary music with the Kaprizma Ensemble from Jerusalem at the Jerusalem Music Center starting today and throughout this week. The workshop (for specific hours and details please call (02) 623-4347) is open to the public and will be followed by public concerts later in the week.

Austrian organist Elisabeth Ullmann presents a recital of baroque music as well as 20th-century French music tonight at 8:30 at the Dormition Abbey in Jerusalem as part of the Liturgica Festival.

"From Bach to Brazil," Astrith Baltsan's second program in her concert-lecture series, is given with soprano Amalia Itzhak, guitarist Reuben Seroussi and other guest musicians performing music by Bach. Tonight at 8 at the Tel Aviv Museum.

Cellist Boris Pergamenschikow gives a solo recital of music by Noam Sheriff, Kurtag, Bach and Penderecki at Tel Aviv University tonight at 8:30. Tomorrow he presents a masterclass at the same locale and on Wednesday, at the same auditorium at 8:30 p.m., he will be the soloist in a special concert with the Academy Symphony Orchestra in which he will perform Tchaikovsky's *Rococo Variations*.

Cristian Mandeal leads the Haifa Symphony Orchestra in the First Romanian Rhapsody by Enescu and Berlioz's *Symphonie Fantastique*, and Corey Cerovsek joins to play Lalo's *Symphonie Espagnole*.



Organist Elisabeth Ullmann plays baroque in Jerusalem

RADIO

VOICE OF MUSIC

6:05 Mozart: String Quartet no 14 K378; Beethoven: Variations and Fugue op 35 "Eroica" (Arrau) 7:07 Grieg: Music to Peer Gynt 8:05 Mendelssohn: Violin Concerto in E minor; Cherubini: Symphony in D 9:05 Albinoni: Sonata in G minor for Strings; Mozart: Piano Concerto no 19 K459; Mendelssohn: Quartet no 1 in C minor for Piano and Strings op 1; Saint-Saens: Sonata no 1 for Cello and Piano op 32; Brahms: Violin Concerto op 77 ; Bloch: Concerto Grosso no 1 12:00 Light Classical 13:00 Artist of the Week – Gidon Kremer, violin. Schnittke: Concerto Grosso no 1 for 2 Violins, Harpsichord, Piano and Strings; Enescu: Impressions d'enfance for Violin and Piano 14:05 Encore – Works for Violin and Piano by Bach, Bruch, Wieniawski and Ravel 16:00 Music for Sunday – Telemann: Cantata; Dacquin: Noel no 11 for Organ; Early Coventry Christmas Songs; Handel: The Messiah; Vivaldi: Christmas Concerto in G minor 19:00 New CDs - Tavener: The Madonna's Last Sleep for Strings and Bells; Sandor Varsh: Hommage to the Artist Paul Klee for 2 Pianos and Orchestra 20:05 The 15th International Guitar Festival – Reuben Seroussi, guitar / Marcello Ehrlich, flute. Rodrigo: Serenade with the Dawn; Bartok: Romanian Dances; Villa-Lobos: Bachiana Brasileira no 5; Piazzolla: History of the Tango; Latin American Folk pieces; Popular songs from Brazil 23:00 Sounds to End the Day – du Mont, Marais and Charpentier

RADIOWEST

CNN news on the hour followed by RadioWEST local news 6:00 Morning Drive with David Starck (until 9:00) 7:45 Sports Update 8:08 Lions Trust Financial Update 9:00 Morning Brunch with Michal Cohen (until 12:00) 10:00 Stayin' Alive with Leora Adam / Drs. Scott & Heidi 12:00 Party Time with Joan Summerfield 13:00 Memory Lane with Rebecca E. 14:00 M & M's Pick 'n' Mix 16:00 Afternoon Drive with Mike Reinis (until 19:00) 17:45 Sports Update 19:00 Evening Jazz with Deb Arnold 21:00 Soul Talk – rabbinical personalities discuss relevant topics 22:00 West Rock with Uncle Harvey (with "Dead Air") 1:00 Late Night Music

BBC WORLD SERVICE

5:00 Newsdesk 6:30 Global Business 7:00 Newsday 7:30 Jazzmatazz 8:00 Newsday 8:30 In Praise of God 9:00 World News 9:15 Letter From America 9:30 A Jolly Good Show 10:00 World News 10:10 Reflections Thought 10:15 Short Story 10:30 The Greenfield Collection 11:00 World News 11:05 Write On 11:15 From Our Own Correspondent 11:45 Sports Roundup 12:00 Newsdesk 12:30 Global Business 13:00 Newsdesk 13:30 Anything Goes 14:00 World News 14:05 Write On 14:15 In Praise of God 14:45 Sports Roundup 15:00 Newshour 16:00 News Summary 16:01 Pick of the Year 16:45 Letter from America 17:00 World News 17:05 Sports Roundup 17:15 The Music Party 18:00 World News 18:15 Pick of the World 18:45 Britain Today 19:00 News summary 19:01 Watershed 19:30 Planet 2000 20:00 Newsdesk 20:30 Play of the Week: Mr & Mrs. Nobody 21:30 Anything Goes 22:00 Newshour 23:00 World News 23:05 Write On 23:15 Britain Today 23:30 Music Review 00:00 Newsdesk

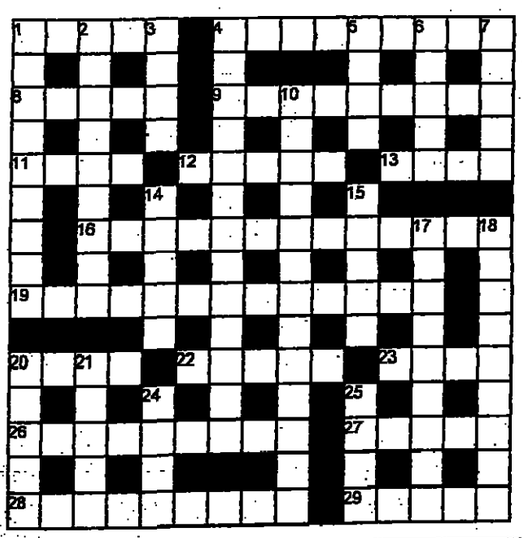
CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Rifles take a back seat (5)
4 The guards going out with one's girls? (9)
8 Bid for cash-box that does not open (5)
9 Ignorant, having tried to discard knowledge (9)
11 Nose out of joint for ages (4)
12 Design square factory (5)
13 Fish spear (4)
16 Inconsistent quality of ceilings, all so different (13)
19 Sigmund's close catchers making unintentional errors (8,5)
20 Rolling peas in church recess (4)
22 Couple to marry (5)
23 Change was roughly one penny short (4)
26 Odd, perhaps, to include going wrong in bold action (7-2)
27 Difficult, some say, to get hospital well-ventilated (5)
28 Stroll off like Lady Macbeth (9)
29 But is not Harris's river! (5)

DOWN

1 Album for the autumn (5-4)
2 Detestable attack (9)
3 Slave once almost got up invigorated (4)
4 Fitting twin lights for extra warmth (6,7)
5 Try to listen (4)
6 The doldrums, a bit of a rotten nuisance (5)
7 Grass edges trimmed (5)
10 The grandfather serves notice on Jarndyce v Jarndyce? (8,5)
14 Dashing young fellow, a swordsman (5)
15 Clear grassland (5)
17 Once, where list was amended (9)
18 Musical character looked alert (5-4)
20 Range of *Danse Macabre*? (5)
21 Swell certain to grip top of glove (5)
24 Strand, from west, is quiet (4)
25 Scrap this holiday? (4)

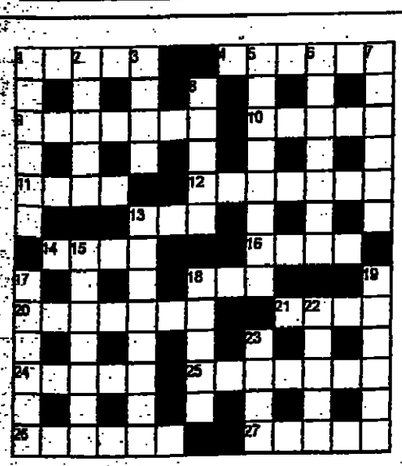


SOLUTIONS

S	A	C	R	A	M	E	N	T	O		S	N	A	P
A	H		C	A	R	A	E		A					
C	H	A	N	T		R	E	A	D	D	R	E	S	S
K		C	U	T	P	V		D	T					
	C	H	O	P	C	H	O	P		A	S	S	A	M
C	A		L	S		N		A						
F	A	C	T	O	R	Y		D	I	C	K	E	N	S
F	H		L			E		R	T					
T	R	A	G	E	D	Y		R	E	D	T	A	P	E
H		A		E		D		R						
P	E	G	G	O	N		R	E	S	T	R	A	I	N
R		O		O		O		A		C		B		
O	N	T	H	E	N	A	I	L		B	R	A	C	E
O		R		R		V		B		T		S		
K	I	N	D		I	M	P	E	D	I	M	E	N	T

Quick Solution

ACROSS: 1 Mister, 4 Blare, 8 Grebe, 9 Uniform, 10 Attired, 11 Daft, 12 Yew, 14 Brut, 15 Imam, 18 Ebb, 21 Espy, 23 Address, 25 Impasse, 26 Aural, 27 Board, 28 Slings. DOWN: 1 Magyar, 2 Shelter, 3 Execrate, 4 Bait, 5 Abode, 9 Enmity, 7 Ruddy, 13 Windfall, 16 Aneurin, 17 Zenith, 19 Bagel, 20 Psalms, 22 Papua, 24 Used.



QUICK CROSSWORD

ACROSS	DOWN
1 Make happen (5)	1 Stronghold (6)
4 Searcher (6)	2 Doorkeeper (5)
9 Orbs (7)	3 Nobleman (4)
10 Bundle up (5)	5 Access (8)
11 String instrument (4)	6 Part of hand (7)
12 Unbidden (7)	7 Dwell (6)
13 Regret (3)	8 Publish (5)
14 Portend (4)	13 Resort (8)
16 Cook (4)	15 Boat crew (7)
18 Mineral (3)	17 Rank (6)
20 Attendance (4,3)	18 Different (5)
21 Thought (4)	19 Not often (6)
24 Clock (5)	22 Clothe (5)
25 Outermost (7)	23 Stallion (4)
26 Poem (6)	
27 Attractive (5)	

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TV

CHANNEL 1 (11)

ARABIC PROGRAMS
6:30 News flash
6:31 News in Arabic
6:45 Good Morning Israel

EDUCATIONAL TV

8:00 The Wonderful World of Molecules
8:30 Destinos
9:00 Cinema Europa
10:00 Programs for the very young
11:00 English
13:00 French
13:30 Hanni's Room
15:00 Sesame Street
15:25 Hanni's Room

CHANNEL 1 (11)

15:30 Heartbreak High
16:15 Eli and Lily
16:30 Garden Party
16:59 A New Evening
17:35 Just Love
18:15 News in English

ARABIC PROGRAMS
18:30 Amal and Kamal's Studio
19:00 News in Arabic

HEBREW PROGRAMS
19:30 It's Only Sport
20:00 News Headlines
20:10 With Meni
21:00 News
21:30 End of the Orange Season: Incubator – part 8 looks at the emergence of female soloists like Yehudit Ravitz, Corinne Allal and Esther Shamir
22:30 A Respectable Trade – part 4
23:30 News
00:00 Verse of the Place

CHANNEL 2 (22)

5:45 Today's programs
5:55 On the Edge of the Shelf
6:00 Iron Man
6:30 Choco with Tel-Ad
6:43 Cafe Tel-Ad
9:00 Ramat Aviv Gimmel
10:20 Port Charles
11:10 Maybe This Time
11:35 Lilach
12:35 Harry & the Hendersons
13:00 Sport TV
13:30 Ghost Writer
14:00 Home and Away
14:30 Tick Tack
15:00 Back to the Future
15:30 Flevel's American Tails – animation series
16:00 The Bold and Beautiful
16:30 Street Corner
17:00 Five with Gadi Sukenik
17:30 Sister Sister
18:00 Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman
19:00 Ticket for 2
19:25 Lingo
20:00 News
20:30 Hartzufim
21:00 Starting the Week with Amnon Levy
22:35 Florentine
23:20 Homicide
00:00 News
00:05 Homicide
00:20 King of the Hill
00:50 Needful Things (1993) – thriller based on an adaptation of a Stephen King book about an evil man who moves into a small town, opens a store and proceeds to cause mayhem. With Max von Sydow and Ed Harris
2:50 Song for the Day

JORDAN TV (31)
(unconfirmed)

15:00 Holy Koran
15:10 Pink Panther
15:30 Black Foal
16:00 Discovering the World of Animals
16:30 Video Kids
17:00 US Billboard
18:00 Big Secret
19:00 French Journal
19:15 Varied
19:30 News Headlines
19:35 Candid Camera and Pranks
20:00 Africa
20:30 Series
21:10 Renegade
21:30 Behind the Scenes
22:00 News in English
22:30 Miniseries
00:00 Dougie Howser

MIDDLE EAST TV
(24/27)
(unconfirmed)

7:30 Religion
12:30 John Austin.
13:00 Touch
14:00 700 Club
14:30 World Christian News
15:00 Blake & Mortimer
15:30 Donkey Kong County
15:55 Woody Woodpecker
16:20 White Fang
16:45 American Football
17:45 English League Soccer
20:15 American Football – NFL Classics
21:15 Italian League Soccer
23:45 American Football – Denver vs Seattle

CABLE

ITV 3 (33)

16:00 The Brave Children
16:30 Short and Sweet
17:00 Weekly Column
19:00 News in Arabic
19:30 News in Russian
20:00 For Women Only
20:30 Telekessel
21:00 News
21:30 Crossfire
22:30 Thiel Takers
23:30 Supernatural – Mystical

ETV 2 (23)

15:30 Mathematics
16:00 Reading Direction
16:30 Yes, You Can Say "No"
16:50 Marijuana
17:00 Color Garden
17:20 Arabic Stories
17:30 Massarat
18:00 English
18:30 Dealing with Dogs
19:00 Thousand Faces of Indonesia
19:30 Vis-a-vis
20:00 A New Evening
20:30 Media File
20:55 Little Big Country
21:00 Les Diaboliques (French, 1955) – thriller about the murder of a despotic school principal by his wife and lover and the complications which follow. With Simone Signoret and Paul Meurice
22:55 Designs (rpt)

CHANNEL 3

7:00 Good Evening with Guy Pines (rpt)
7:30 Love Story with Yossi Siyas (rpt)
8:00 Celeste
9:00 One Life to Live (rpt)
9:45 The Young and the Restless (rpt)
10:30 Days of Our Lives (rpt)
11:15 Angels Don't Cry (rpt)
12:00 Barnaby Jones
12:45 Dallas
14:00 Bewitched
14:25 I Dream of Jeannie
14:50 Days of Our Lives
15:35 Judge Judy
16:00 Angels Don't Cry
16:45 One Life to Live
17:30 Frasier
18:00 Good Evening with Guy Pines
18:30 Local Broadcast
19:00 The Young and the Restless
19:40 Melrose Place
20:25 The Nanny
20:50 Trivia King (rpt)
21:10 Little Country Big Man (Hebrew) – original four-part drama by Avraham Heffner. An investigation into the identity of the unclaimed body of a man killed in a terrorist attack leads to international intrigue. With Liora Rivlin, Tikki Dayan, Yossi Yadin and James Falkner
22:00 Yair Lapid Live at 10
22:30 Seinfeld (rpt)
23:15 Ricki Lake (rpt)
23:45 Good Evening with Guy Pines (rpt)
00:15 The Larry Sanders Show
00:45 Silk Stalkings
1:35 North of 60

MOVIE CHANNEL (4)

11:30 The Proprietor (1996) – a French writer living in New York explores two cultures, past and present life experiences and her relationships, in finding the meaning of her life. With Jeanne Moreau, Sean Young, Sam Waterston and Austin Pendleton. Directed by Ismail Merchant
13:30 The Bride Walks Out (1938) – comedy about a model who marries a stuffy engineer and is forced to quit her work. With Barbara Stanwyck, Gene Raymond and Robert Young
14:55 The Almost Perfect Bank Robbery (1998) – comic thriller about a cop and his greedy fiancée who plan the perfect bank heist at the bank where she works. Unfortunately the FBI is on their tail almost immediately. With Brooke Shields, Dylan Walsh and Rip Torn
16:30 The Jungle Book (1994) – sumptuously filmed adaptation of Kipling's story, better known for its Disney animated rendering. Mowgli is a jungle man discovered by the British Army in India during the early 1900s. With Jason Scott Lee, Cary Elwes, Lena Headey, Sam Neill and John Cleese
18:50 Faithful (1996) – comic thriller about a hit man sent to abduct the neglected wife of a wealthy businessman and wait for his order to kill her. Directed by Paul Mazursky. With Cher, Chazz Palminteri and Ryan O'Neal
20:25 Picture Perfect (1995) – two teenagers bring together their single-parent families in order to win a soda company competition. With Richard Karn, Dave Thomas and Mary Page Keller
22:00 Hard Evidence (1994) – a well-to-do businessman is sucked into a nightmare of blackmail and murder by his mistress. With Gregory Harrison and Joan Severance
23:40 The Perfect Mother (1997) – an obsessive mother acts out her jealousy of her son's wife. With Tyne Daly, Iona Skye, Justin Louis and Tuesday Knight
1:10 Hot City (1996) – A young man whose shopkeeper father was terrorized by gangsters returns home to deal with them. With Fred Williamson, Jim Brown and Pam Grier
2:50 Blood Moon (1989, 96 mins.) – A British teacher in a public school avenges his wife's infidelity by murdering couples in the fields

CHILDREN (6)

6:30 Cartoons
8:10 Whimsy's House
8:30 The Lulu Show
9:05 Les Miserables
9:30 The Smurfs
10:05 Ninja Turtles
10:30 Following Enchanted Tales
11:00 Peter Pan and the Pirates
11:40 Bobby's World
12:05 Dark Journey
12:30 The Magic Schoolbus
13:00 Nils Holgersen
13:30 Simba, the Lion King
14:00 The World's Most Beautiful Tales
14:15 Little Star
14:35 Franklin
15:05 The Smurfs
15:35 Ninja Turtles
16:00 Superman
16:25 Peter Pan and the Pirates
17:05 Ace Ventura, Pet Detective
17:30 Shesh-Tus
18:10 Nightman
19:05 Moesha
19:31 Family Matters
19:55 Married with Children
20:20 The Fresh Prince of Bel Air
20:45 Full House
21:10 Party of Five

SECOND SHOWING (6)

22:00 Here Come the Girls (1953) – musical comedy about a bumbling actor who is made the star of a musical only to be used to entrap a murderer. With Bob Hope, Arlene Dahl and Rosemary Clooney
23:15 Le Lit (French, 1982, 76 mins.) – moving portrait of 24 hours in the life of a couple based on a novel by Dominique Rolin. She is a happy energetic woman and her husband is dying. Directed by Marion Hansel

CHANNEL 8

6:00 Open University: Rwanda, Where was the Church?; Sociological Imagination; Connection
8:00 World Discoveries: Pyrethrum (rpt)
8:30 Great Crimes and Trials (rpt)
9:00 Beyond 2000
9:25 A New World, Saving the Planet (rpt)
9:50 Purcell: Hail Bright Cecilia
10:40 A Gathering of Men – interview with poet Robert Bly who organizes meetings for men only to deal with their emotions
12:10 Bay of Giants (rpt)
13:05 Satellite Wars, parts 2 & 3 (rpt)
14:25 Kiting for a Living
15:15 Six Explorers: Tiger's Eyes (rpt)
16:10 Cousteau: Mekong I
17:00 Open University: Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau; Alexandria, Discovery of a Lost Empire
19:00 Heartbeat of the Forest – a six-million-year-old forest in Spain that became the Straits of Gibraltar
20:00 Arabia, Sand, Sea and Surf: The Mountain Barrier – first episode in a trilogy about nature in the Arabian peninsula
21:00 Kiting for a Living: Sharksl
21:50 Six Explorers: Stolen Treasures – looting of graves and antiquities
22:40 Heartbeat of the Forest (see 19:00)
23:35 Open University: Principles of Accounting
00:05 Open University: Aquanauts' Guide to Oceans
00:55 Open University: Interactions in Science

STAR WORLD (18/15)

6:00 Small Wonder
6:30 Mind Your Language
7:00 Xena
8:00 Hercules
9:00 LA Heat
10:00 Walker, Texas Ranger
11:00 Tropical Heat
12:00 WWF Superstars
13:00 The Simpsons
13:30 Travel Asia
14:00 Asia News Sunday
14:30 Third Rock From the Sun
15:00 Millennium
16:00 The X-Files
17:00 Cops
17:30 Code 3
18:00 Asia News Sunday
18:30 Third Rock From the Sun
19:00 Millennium
20:00 The X-Files
21:00 Tropical Heat
22:00 Baywatch Nights
23:00 Cops
23:30 Code 3
00:00 Aerobics Oz Style
00:30 World News
1:00 Home Improvement
1:30 Candid Camera
2:00 Jack Hanna's Animal Adventures
2:30 The Britias Empire

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC (19)

6:00 Predators: Teeth of Death (rpt)
7:00 CNBC – business and finance news and reports
13:00 Backlash in the Wild (rpt)
14:00 Arctic Adventure (rpt)
15:00 The Elusive Sloth Bear (rpt)
15:30 Mother Bear Man
16:00 Bear Attack (rpt)
16:30 Last of the Dancing Bears (rpt)
17:00 Spice Islands Voyage
18:00 Predators: Teeth of Death (rpt)
19:00 Backlash in the Wild
20:00 Alaska Bears
20:30 The Forgotten Sun Bear
21:00 Pandas: A Giant Stirs
22:00 In the Land of the Grizzlies – the dangers awaiting the awesome predator
23:00 The China Voyage – the story of seven people who crossed the Pacific on a bamboo raft
00:00 The Superliners: Twilight of an Era – a nostalgic view
1:00 Avalanche! – survivors and rescuers recall
1:30 Arribada – about Ridley turtles in Costa Rica
2:00 Alaska Bears (rpt)
2:30 The Forgotten Sun Bear (rpt)

BBC WORLD (13/14)

News on the hour
6:30 This Week
7:30 India Business Report
8:30 The Big Catch: Marlin (rpt)
9:30 Hardtalk (rpt)
10:30 This Week (rpt)
11:05 American Visions: Age of Anxiety (rpt)
12:30 The Net (rpt)
13:30 Wild World: The Living Planet, part 24
14:05 To be announced
15:10 Dateline London
16:30 Top Gear (rpt)
17:05 Provoc: Endgame (rpt)
18:30 India Business Report
19:30 The Net (rpt)
20:05 American Visions (rpt)
21:30 Simpson's World (rpt)
22:05 to be announced
23:30 Earth Report (rpt)
00:30 Hard Talk (rpt)
01:30 World Review '98 (rpt)
2:30 Top Gear (rpt)

CNN INTERNATIONAL (12)

News throughout the day
6:30 Evans, Novak, Hunt and Shields
7:30 Global View
8:00 World Business This Week
9:30 World Sport
10:30 World Beat
11:30 The Artclub (rpt)
12:30 World Sport
13:30 Earth Matters
14:30 Science and Technology
15:00 World Report
16:30 Inside Europe
17:30 World Sport
18:30 Showbusiness This Weekend
19:00 Late Edition
20:30 Business Unusual
21:00 Inside Europe
22:30 Pinnacle Europe
23:30 Best of Insight
00:30 World Sport
1:00 World View
1:30 Style
2:00 The World Today
2:30 World Beat

SKY NEWS (14/13)

News on the hour
6:30 Global Village
7:30 Showbiz Weekly
8:00 Sunrise
10:30 Sports Week
11:30 Year in Review: Business
12:00 Sunday with Adam Boulton
15:30 Year in Review: Business
16:30 Showbiz Weekly
17:30 Year in Review: Business
18:30 Sunday with Adam Boulton
19:00 Live at Five
21:30 Sportsline
22:30 Year in Review: Media
23:30 Showbiz Weekly
00:00 Prime Time
1:30 Week in Review
2:30 CBS Weekend News

CHANNEL 5 (05)

6:30 Bodies in Motion
16:30 College Basketball
18:00 English First Division Soccer – W. Bromwich Albion vs Port Vale
19:30 Sports News
20:00 National League Soccer
21:00 College Basketball
22:30 Swiss League Soccer – Grasshoppers vs Zamaks
23:30 Sydney's Not Waiting – Ben Johnson interview

EUROSPORT (15/16)

9:30 Xtrem Sports
11:00 Alpine Skiing
12:00 Ski Jumping
13:30 Alpine Skiing
14:00 Live Alpine Skiing
14:45 Biathlon
15:45 Live Equestrianism
18:00 Dancing
19:00 Alpine Skiing
19:45 Live Cross-Country Skiing
22:30 Bloopers (rpt)
23:00 Boxing
00:00 Bowling
1:00 Olympic Games

PRIME TIME TV

	1	2	3	4	6	8
19:30	It's Only Sport News Headlines With Meni	Lingo	Melrose Place		Family Matters Married With Children	Arabia, Sand, Sea and Surf
20:00		News				
20:30		Hartzufim	The Nanny	Picture Perfect	Fresh Prince of Bel Air	
21:00	News	Starting the Week with Amnon Levy	Trivia King		Full House	Killing for a Living
21:30	End of the Orange Season		Little Country Big Man		Party of Five	
22:00			Yair Lapid Live at 10	Hard Evidence	Here Come the Girls	Six Explorers: Stolen Treasures
22:30	A Respectable Trade	Florentine	Seinfeld			Heartbeat of the Forest
23:00						

MOVIES

JERUSALEM
CINEMATHEQUE a Perfect Murder 5 • The X-Files 7:15 • My Michael 7:30 • Farewell My Concubine⇨Bohemian Life 9:30 **G.G. GIL** Jerusalem Mall (Malha) ☎ 6788448 Practical Magic⇨The Truman Show 4:45, 7:15, 10 • ANTZ⇨Ronin⇨Sliding Doors 4:45, 7:15, 10 • The Negotiator 4:30, 7:15, 10 • Saving Private Ryan 6, 9:30 • The Big Lebowski 10 • Small Soldiers 4:45, 7:15
JERUSALEM THEATER Washington Square 7, 9:30 • Character *(Dutch, Hebrew subtitles)* 7, 9:30 **RAV CHEN 1-7** ☎ 6792798 Credit Card Reservations ☎ 6794477 Rav-Mecher Building, 19 Ha'oman St., Talpiot Rounders⇨Studio 54 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Life is Beautiful⇨Snake Eyes 5, 7:30, 9:45 • There's Something About Mary⇨Holy Man 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Next Stop Wonderland 5, 7:30, 9:45
MEVASSERET ZION G.G. GIL ☎ 5700868 The Truman Show 4:45, 7:15, 10 • Sliding Doors 4:45, 7:15, 10
SMADAR ☎ 5618168 Girls Evening 5, 7:30, 10
TEL AVIV
DIZENGOFF Sliding Doors 11 a.m., 1, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10 • Washington Square 11 a.m., 1, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10 • Character *(Dutch, Hebrew subtitles)* 11 a.m., 1, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10 **GAT** ☎6967888 Life is Beautiful 2:30, 5, 7:30, 9:45 **GLOBUS** ☎6081130/1 Practical Magic⇨ANTZ 11:30 a.m., 2, 5, 7:30, 10 • Ronin⇨The Truman Show 11:30 a.m., 2, 5, 7:30, 10 • The Negotiator 11:30 a.m., 2, 4:30, 7:15, 10 • Saving Private Ryan 11:30 a.m., 2:30, 6, 9:30 • Small Soldiers 11:30 a.m., 2, 5, 7:30 • The Big Lebowski 7:30, 10 • Paulie 11:30 a.m., 2, 5 **G.G. HOD 1-4** ☎ 5226226 Hod Passage, 101 Dizengoff St. Ronin⇨The Truman Show 5, 7:30, 10 • The Big Lebowski 5, 7:30, 10 • Saving Private Ryan 6, 9:30 **LEV** ☎5288288 Girls' Evening 11 a.m., 1:45, 5, 7:30, 9:45 • The Dream Life of Angels 11 a.m., 1:30, 4:45, 7:30, 10 • Hana-Bi 11:15 a.m., 2, 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Sweet Hereafter 11:30 a.m., 2, 10 • Night Train 7:30 • Superboy 5 **LEV AVIV** ☎6417148 Girls Evening ⇨The Dream Life of Angels 5, 7:30, 10 • Nights of Cabiria⇨Sweet Hereafter 10 • Hana-Bi 5, 7:30, 9:45 • A Price Above Rubies 5, 7:30 • A Polish Bride 7:30 • Superboy 5 **LIMOR** ☎8968084 Shall We Dance 6 • In the Realm of the Senses 8 • As Good As It Gets 9:45 • Mulan *(Hebrew dialogue)* 4:30 **G.G. PE'ER** ☎5442141 Practical Magic⇨ANTZ⇨Gentile 5, 7:30, 10 • The Truman Show 5, 7:30, 10• The Negotiator 4:30, 7:15, 10 **RAV-CHEN** ☎ 5282288 Dizengoff Circle Rounders 2:30, 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Studio 54⇨Snake Eyes⇨Halloween: H20 2:30, 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Ever After 2:30, 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Holy Man 2:30, 5, 7:30, 9:45 **RAV-OR 1-5** ☎ 5102874 Opera House There's Something About Mary 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Henry Fool 4:30, 7:15, 9:45 • Next Stop Wonderland 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Tango 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Il Ciclone 5, 7:30
TEL AVIV
MUSEUM Claire Dolan 5, 8, 10
HAIFA
CINEMA CAFÉ AMAMI ☎8325755 Sliding Doors 7:15, 9:30 • The Big Lebowski 7:15, 9:30 **CINEMATHEQUE** ☎8383424 The Age of Innocence 5 • Naked 9:30 **MORIAH** ☎8242477 Washington Square 7:15, 9:30 **ORI** ☎8500056 Practical Magic⇨Ronin 4:45, 7:15, 10 • ANTZ⇨The Truman Show 4:45, 7:15 • Small Soldiers 4:45, 7:15, 10 • The Negotiator 4:30, 7:15, 10 • Sliding Doors 4:45, 7:15, 10 • Saving Private Ryan 9:30 **PANORAMA** ☎8382020 Practical Magic⇨Character *(Dutch, Hebrew subtitles)* 4:30, 7, 9:30 • The Negotiator 4:15, 7, 9:30 • Character *(Dutch, Hebrew subtitles)* 4:30, 7:15, 9:30 • Small Soldiers 4:15
RAV-CHEN ☎8500055 Holy Man⇨There's Something About Mary 4:45, 7:15, 9:30 • Wrongfully Accused 5, 7:15, 9:30 • Halloween: H20 5, 7:15, 9:30 • Studio 54 5, 7:15, 9:30 **RAV-GAT 1-2** ☎ 8674311 Rounders 7, 9:30 • Snake Eyes 7:15, 9:30 **RAV-MOR 1-7** ☎ 8416898 Rounders 4:30, 7, 9:30 • Life is Beautiful 4:45, 7, 9:30 • Studio 54⇨Snake Eyes 5, 7:15, 9:30 • Holy Man 4:30, 7, 9:30 • There's Something About Mary 4:30, 7, 9:30 • Ever After 4:30, 7, 9:30 **RAV-OR 1-3** ☎ 8246553 Next Stop Wonderland 5, 7:15, 9:30 • Life is Beautiful 4:45, 7, 9:30 • Ever After 4:45, 7, 9:30
AFULA
RAV CHEN There's Something About Mary 7, 9:30 • Saving Private Ryan 6, 9:15 • The Truman Show 7:15, 9:30
ARAD
STAR ☎9950904 Ever After 5 • The Truman Show 7:30, 9:45 • Snake Eyes 7:30, 9:45 • Sliding Doors 5, 7:30, 9:45
ASHDOD
G.G. GIL ☎ 8647202 Practical Magic⇨Ronin 5, 7:30, 10 • ANTZ 5, 7:30 • The Negotiator 4:30, 7:15, 10 • Small Soldiers 5, 7:30 • Saving Private Ryan 9:30 • Sliding Doors 10 **ORI** ☎8568073 Grease 5, 7:30, 10 • The Truman Show 5, 7:30, 10 **RAV CHEN** ☎8661120 Rounders 5, 7:15, 9:45 • Ever After⇨Holy Man⇨There's Something About Mary 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Life is Beautiful⇨Studio 54 5, 7:30, 9:45
ASHKELON
G.G. GIL ☎ 6729977 Practical Magic⇨Ronin 5, 7:30, 10 • Small Soldiers 5, 7:30 • The Negotiator 4:30, 7:15, 10 • ANTZ 5, 7:30 • The Truman Show 10 • Sliding Doors 10 **RAV CHEN** ☎6711221 Rounders⇨Holy Man⇨There's Something About Mary 5, 7:15, 9:45 • Studio 54⇨Life is Beautiful 5, 7:15, 9:45
BAT YAM
RAV CHEN ☎5531077 Practical Magic 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Rounders⇨Ronin 5, 7:15, 9:45 • There's Something About Mary 5, 7:30, 9:45 • The Negotiator 7, 9:45 • Holy Man 7:30, 9:45 • Studio 54 7:30, 9:45 • Small Soldiers⇨Ever After⇨ANTZ 5
BEERSHEBA
G.G. ORI ☎6103111 Practical Magic⇨Ronin 5, 7:30, 10 • Small Soldiers 5, 7:30 • ANTZ 5, 7:30, 10 • Sliding Doors 10 • The Negotiator 10
RAV-NEGEV 1-4 ☎6235278 Rounders⇨Life is Beautiful⇨There's Something About Mary 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Studio 54 12:15 a.m.; 7:30, 9:45 • Ever After 5
EILAT
EILAT CINEMA Ever After⇨Holy Man⇨There's Something About Mary 7:30, 10 • There's Something About Mary 7:30, 10 **GIL** ☎6340182 Practical Magic⇨ANTZ 5, 7:30, 10 • The Negotiator 7:15, 10
HADERA
LEV ☎6343555 There's Something About Mary 7:30, 10 • ANTZ⇨Studio 54 7:30, 10 • Ever After 7:30 • Snake Eyes 10
HERZLIYA
COLONY ☎6902666 There's Something About Mary 5:30, 7:30, 10 • Life is Beautiful 5:30, 7:30, 10
DANIEL ☎ 9544044 Girls Evening 5, 7:30, 10 **STAR** ☎ 9589068 Practical Magic 7:30, 10 • ANTZ 7:30, 10 • There's Something About Mary 7:30, 10
HOD HASHARON
GIL ☎ 7408591 Practical Magic⇨There's Something About Mary 5, 7:30, 10 • Small Soldiers 5, 7:30 • The Negotiator 4:30, 7:15, 10 • The Truman Show 10
HOLON
GLOBUS Practical Magic⇨Ronin 5, 7:30, 10 • There's Something About Mary⇨ANTZ 5, 7:30, 10 • The Negotiator 4:30, 7:15, 10 • Small Soldiers 5 • The Truman Show 10 • Life is Beautiful 7:30, 10 **STAR** There's Something About Mary⇨Holy Man 7:30, 10 • Ever After 7:30, 10 • Studio 54 10 • Wrongfully Accused 7:30
KARMIEL
CINEMA ☎9882521 There's Something About Mary 7, 9:30 • Saving Private Ryan 6, 9:15 • Studio 54 7:15, 9:30
KFAR SAVA
G.G. GIL ☎7677370 Practical Magic 5, 7:30, 10 • The Negotiator 4:30, 7:15, 10 • Ronin⇨Life is Beautiful 5, 7:30, 10 • There's Something About Mary⇨ANTZ 5, 7:30, 10 • Small Soldiers 5, 7:30 • Rounders 10
KIRYAT BIALIK
G.G. GIL ☎8779877 Practical Magic⇨ANTZ 7, 9:30 • Ronin⇨The Negotiator⇨Wrongfully Accused 7, 9:30 • The Truman Show 7, 9:30 • Saving Private Ryan 7, 9:30 • Sliding Doors 7, 9:30 • Small Soldiers 7, 9:30
KIRYAT SHMONA
G.G. GIL ☎6905080 Practical Magic 4:30, 7, 9:30 • There's Something About Mary⇨Sliding Doors 4:30, 7, 9:30
NAHARIYA
G.G. GIL Practical Magic⇨Ronin⇨ANTZ 5, 7:30, 10 • There's Something About Mary 5, 7:30, 10 • The Negotiator 4:30, 7:15, 10
UPPER NAZARETH
G.G GIL ☎6561332 Saving Private Ryan 6, 9:30 • The Negotiator 4:15, 7, 10 • Ronin⇨The Big Lebowski 4:30, 7, 9:30 • The Truman Show⇨There's Something About Mary⇨Sliding Doors 4:30, 7, 9:30
NESS ZIONA
G.G. GIL 1-4 ☎ 9404729 Practical Magic⇨Ronin⇨ 5, 7:30, 10 • ANTZ 5, 7:30 • The Negotiator 4:30, 7:15, 10 • The Truman Show 10
NETANYA
G.G. GIL 1-5 ☎ 8628452 Practical Magic⇨Ronin 5, 7:30, 10 • ANTZ 5, 7:30, 10 • Small Soldiers 5, 7:30 • The Negotiator 4:30, 7:15, 10 • The Truman Show 10 **RAV CHEN**

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Sports Editors
Joe Hoffman & Ori Lewis

Vikings break record on way to playoffs

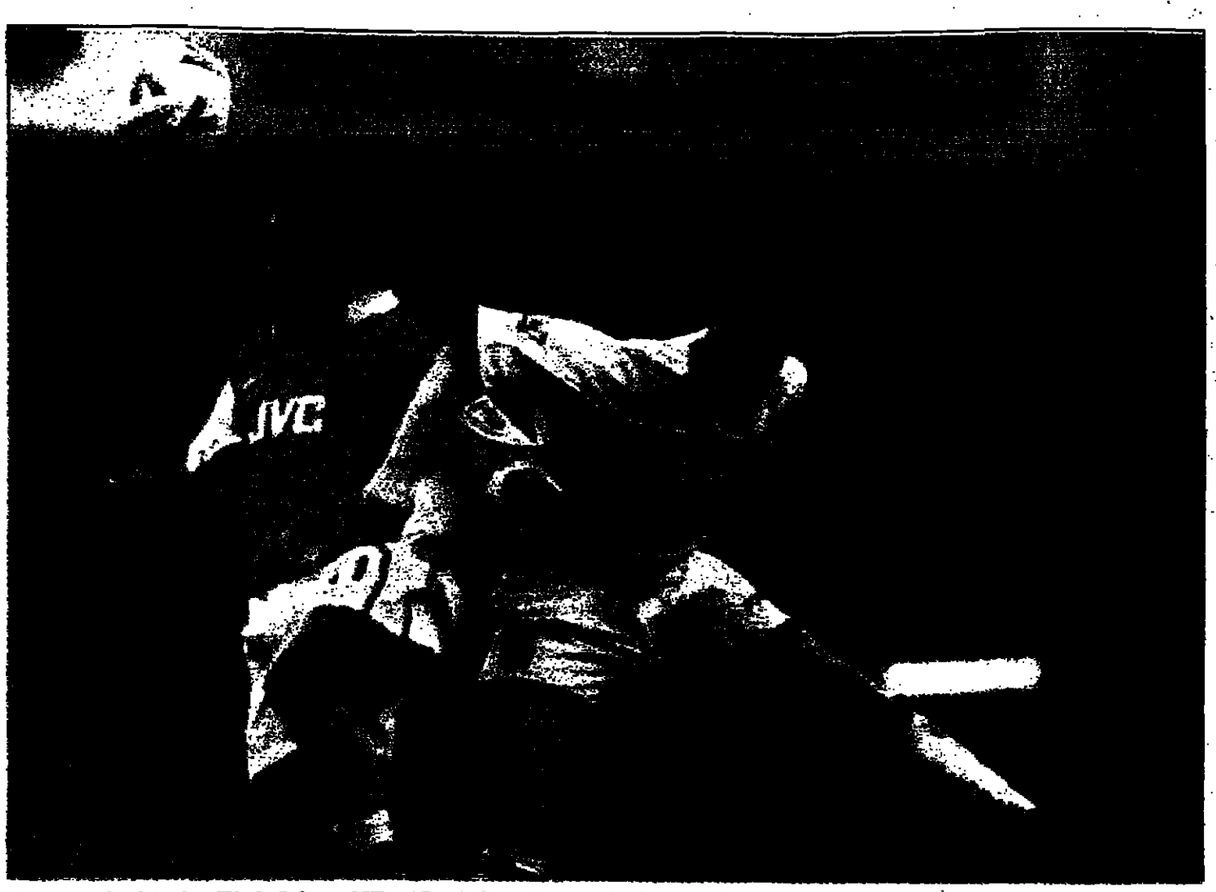
NASHVILLE, (AP) – The Minnesota Vikings are going into the playoffs in record fashion. Randall Cunningham threw two touchdowns and Gary Anderson added two field goals as the Vikings beat the Oilers 26-16 Saturday, becoming the highest-scoring team in NFL history.

Minnesota (15-1) also tied the 1985 Chicago Bears and the 1984 San Francisco 49ers as the only teams with 15 victories in a season. And Anderson became the highest-scoring kicker in a season while extending his record of consecutive field goals to 40 over two seasons.

Anderson became the first NFL kicker to finish a season with a perfect record – 35-of-35 on field goals and 59-of-59 on conversions.

Anderson sealed the victory with a 39-yard field goal with 1:10 left. That gave him 164 points this season, topping Mark Moseley's 161 with Washington in 1983.

The loss ruined Tennessee's final game as the Oilers. The franchise's nickname will be the Titans next season after 38 seasons as the Oilers in Houston and Tennessee.



Arsenal's Christopher Wreh (left) and West Ham's Steve Lomas rise for a header at Highbury yesterday. Arsenal won 1-0. (Reuters)

Chelsea top after 10-man Villa lose at Blackburn

By MIKE COLLETT

LONDON (Reuters) – Chelsea ended a marathon day of English soccer top of the premier league when they won 2-0 at Southampton and 10-man Aston Villa controversially lost 2-1 at Blackburn Rovers yesterday.

Standings, results, Page 13

Goals from Tore Andre Flo and Gustavo Poyet in a midday match pushed Chelsea, who had led the table for 48 hours last weekend, ahead of Villa on goal difference.

Villa, whose match kicked off in the evening, would have moved back into first place if they had avoided defeat but they lost to an 88th-minute strike from Tim Sherwood.

Villa were reduced to 10 men when goalkeeper Michael Oakes appeared to be harshly sent off by referee Dermot Gallagher after 55 minutes for handling outside his penalty area.

Television replays showed that Oakes had let go of the ball before his momentum carried him outside his penalty area.

Villa manager John Gregory said it was an "outrageous decision" and a "monumental error by the linesman". "We have suffered because of it and it has certainly cost us the game tonight." Rovers had taken the lead after 44 minutes when Kevin Gallacher scored with a close-range header. Villa equalized through Riccardo Scimeca nine minutes from time before Sherwood scored Rovers' late winner.

At the halfway stage of the season Chelsea lead the standings with 36 points from 19 matches. Villa had been top since September 12 apart from Chelsea's short stay last weekend.

Manchester United, who started the day without a win in their last six league and cup matches, thumped bottom-placed Nottingham Forest 3-0 at Old Trafford to keep the pressure on the leaders and remain third on 34 points.

Leeds United, who won 3-0 at Newcastle, are fourth on 32 points, the same number as champions Arsenal who beat West Ham 1-0 at Highbury and are fifth.

Chelsea's Norwegian striker Flo, starting a match for once rather than coming on as a substitute, got the opener after ghosting in between two defenders and playing a gentle volley wide of goalkeeper Paul Jones.

Uruguayan Poyet made it 2-0 with the simplest of tap-ins after Jones parried but failed to hold a shot. But Poyet failed to complete the match after being carried off on a stretcher with what looked like a serious injury shortly before the end.

Former Arsenal striker Ian Wright returned to Highbury with his new club West Ham but ended up a loser after an eighth minute striker by Dutchman Marc Overmars. But the win could prove costly to the Gunners who lost Nicolas Anelka with an ankle injury that could keep him out for as much as three weeks.

United crushed Forest with two goals from Norwegian defender Ronny Johnsen and an outstanding third from Ryan Giggs who chipped goalkepeer David Beasant after a sweeping United attack.

It was Forest's 16th league match without a win to equal the premier league record they themselves set in 1996.

Liverpool became the first team to win a league match at Middlesbrough for 14 months when they won 3-1 at the Riverside with goals from Jamie Carragher (17 minutes), Jamie Redknapp (35th) and Veggard Heggem (88) who scored after a brilliant run and shot in the dying seconds.

Leeds won 3-0 at Newcastle with goals from Harry Kewell (38), Lee Boywer (62) and Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink (89), while a 34th minute Tony Cottee strike gave Leicester a 1-0 win at Sheffield Wednesday.

Ashdod stun Hap. Haifa

By ORI LEWIS and DEREK FATTAL

Ironi Ashdod made sure of opening up the National League title race as the season reaches the half-way stage next week.

The Ashdodis caused a sensation yesterday when they beat leaders Hapoel Haifa convincingly 3-2 to whittle down the visitors' lead at the top to just three points. It was Haifa's first loss of the season.

Maccabi Haifa left nothing to chance by beating Maccabi Jaffa at home, and third-placed Betar Jerusalem are in third place after beating Hapoel Kfar Sava on Friday.

Ironi Ashdod 3, Hap. Haifa 2

Until yesterday, Haifa had conceded just three goals since the beginning of the season, yesterday that impressive defensive record was cut in half as Dudu Awat let in three goals in just one game.

Ashdod took the lead on the breakaway when Alberto Naveda lobbed the advancing Awat with a perfect chip shot after being put through by Tibor Balog.

Haifa had tried to force the pace, but Naveda caught them after 20 minutes.

It appeared as if that early goal by the hosts was just a temporary state pf affairs as Goran Milenko equalized after 62 minutes with a powerful shot from 20 meters out, and then Giovanni Rosso broke clear after being fed from a free kick to slot the ball through Ashdod 'keeper Akaki Divadze's legs.

But then the horror story began for Haifa.

On 72 minutes, Milenko grabbed Yossi Malca's shirt in the area and brought him down, causing referee Danny Koren to point at the penalty spot. The in-form Amir Turjeman made no mistake with a powerful shot.

With just three minutes to go, Turjeman found himself with the ball at his feet on the edge of the area after a defensive mixup had left the goalmouth empty, he made no mistake and the Ashdodis celebrated a very significant victory.

Mac. Haifa 2, Mac. Jaffa 0

The league's weakest side came to Kiryat Eliezer with one aim – to defend in depth. The bunker tactics looked set to provide one of the shocks of the season until Avishai Jarmo broke through to put Maccabi ahead with just 12 minutes left to play.

Alon Mizrahi had the Haifa supporters cheering again in the final minute as he pocketed the second goal past Georgian international goalkeeper Lirkolai Zoaidze.

Hap. Kfar Sava 2, Bet. J'lem 3

Ofer Shitrit was virtually the only Betar player making any semblance of an effort in this game which Kfar Sava deserved to win, and he was rewarded with a hat trick for his efforts.

Shitrit put Betar ahead in the eighth minute only for the Kfar Savans to equalize just after the interval through Marian Ungar, thanks to a pathetic mix up by the Betar defense.

In the 63rd minute, Itzik Kornfein crudely felled Yaniv Abargil in the area and in most cases would have been given a red card. For some obscure reason, the Betar 'keeper escaped with yellow but still had no answer to Abargil's well-struck penalty that put the hosts back in the lead.

The tide turned Betar's way again in the 70th minute when Levy awarded Shitrit a fortuitous penalty at the other end. Shitrit made no mistake from the spot to level, then three minutes later he received the ball with his back to goal, turned and beat two defenders and produced a stunning shot to win the match.

Bnei Yehuda 0, Mac. Tel Aviv 6

The Hatikva Quarter was seething with rage against referee Eyal Tsur as the final whistle blew on this mini Tel Aviv derby. Tsur had to be escorted to the dressing rooms with a heavy police guard.

The balance between the two sides was fundamentally changed when Bnei Yehuda had Yossi Balas red-carded on the quarter-hour mark for an off-the-ball foul.

The blitz began with a 37th-minute goal from the head of Moshe Glam who again scored in the 65th minute.

The match was stopped for six minutes near the end when Tsur pulled showed a red card to Bnei Yehuda's Yossi Alfia. In the argument which followed, Sahar Mizrahi made physical contact with Tsur and he was also sent for an early shower.

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Bnei Yehuda 0, Maccabi Tel Aviv 6; Ironi Ashdod 3, Hapoel Haifa 2; Maccabi Petah Tikva 4, Hapoel Beit She'an 0; Ironi Rishon Lezion 0, Hapoel Petah Tikva 1; Maccabi Haifa 2, Maccabi Jaffa 0; Hapoel Jerusalem 1, Maccabi Herzliya 0; Hapoel Tel Aviv 0, Zafririm Holon 0; Hapoel Kfar Sava 2, Betar Jerusalem 3.

SECOND DIVISION: Hapoel Beersheba 0, Hapoel Ashdod 0; Maccabi Kiryat Gat 2, Hakoah Ramat Gan 2; Hapoel Ashkelon 2, Bnei Sakhnin 0; Ahi Nazareth 3, Hapoel Taiba 0; Hapoel Bat Yam 1, Betar Tel Aviv 3; Maccabi Acre 3, Hapoel Lod 1; Maccabi Kafr Kana 4, Ness Ziona 1; Maccabi Netanya 0, Betar Beersheba 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hapoel Haifa	14	11	2	1	28	6	35
Maccabi Haifa	14	10	2	2	33	10	32
Betar Jerusalem	14	9	1	4	39	18	28
Hapoel Petah Tikva	4	9	1	4	29	17	28
Maccabi Tel Aviv	14	7	3	4	30	18	24
Maccabi Petah Tikva	14	6	5	3	26	15	23
Hapoel Tel Aviv	14	6	4	4	21	16	22
Ironi Ashdod	14	5	5	4	23	22	20
Hapoel Jerusalem	14	6	2	6	22	25	20
Zafririm Holon	14	5	4	5	18	11	19
Hapoel Kfar Sava	14	5	2	7	20	31	17
Ironi Rishon Lezion	14	4	4	6	23	30	16
Bnei Yehuda	14	3	3	8	17	32	12
Maccabi Herzliya	14	3	1	10	13	24	10
Hapoel Beit She'an	14	1	2	11	7	44	5
Maccabi Jaffa	14	1	1	12	8	38	4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hapoel Beersheba	13	8	4	1	22	3	28
Maccabi Netanya	13	8	4	1	20	8	28
Hakoah Ramat Gan	13	7	5	1	33	12	26
Hapoel Ashkelon	13	8	2	3	30	17	26
Betar Beersheba	13	8	0	5	20	11	24
Maccabi Kiryat Gat	13	7	3	3	18	14	24
Maccabi Acre	13	6	2	5	20	17	20
Bnei Sakhnin	13	5	2	6	19	16	17
Ahi Nazareth	13	4	4	5	12	12	16
Ness Ziona	13	5	1	7	21	32	16
Hapoel Ashdod	13	3	6	4	10	17	15
Betar Tel Aviv	13	4	2	7	8	18	14
Hapoel Lod	13	3	4	6	17	24	13
Hapoel Bat Yam	13	3	3	7	17	25	12
Maccabi Kafr Kana	13	3	2	8	11	21	11
Hapoel Taiba	13	0	0	13	7	38	0

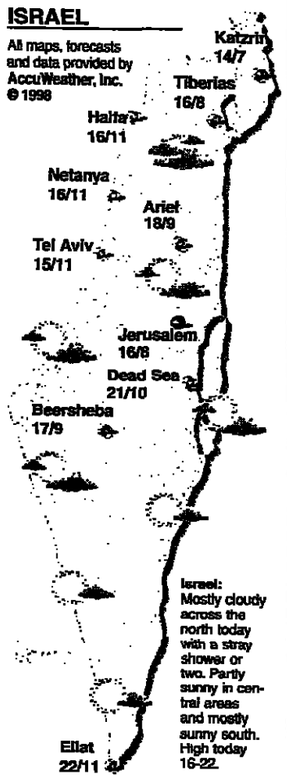
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Toto Plus: ..... 2,2,1,X,1,X,X,2,1,1,1,2,X,1.
Toto Teko: ..... 4, 6, 7, 8, 18, 23, 24.

AIR CANADA
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THE WEATHER

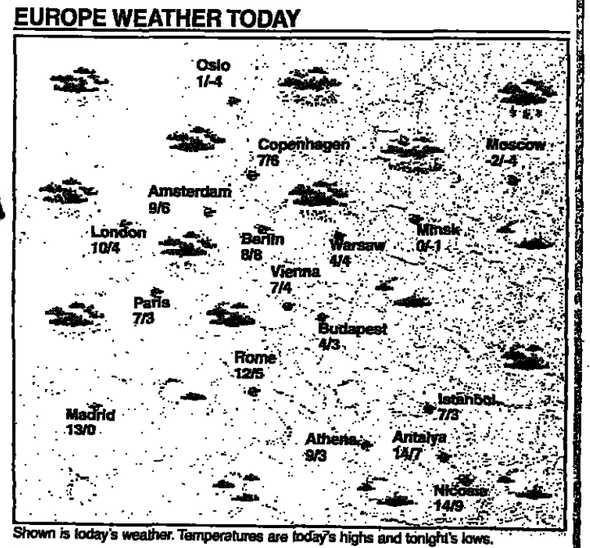
http://www.accuweather.com

ISRAEL



Israel: Mostly cloudy across the north today with a stray shower or two. Partly sunny in central areas and mostly sunny south. High today 16-22.

EUROPE WEATHER TODAY



Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

ISRAEL CITIES

City	Today High C/F	Today Low/W C/F	Monday High C/F	Monday Low/W C/F	Tuesday High C/F	Tuesday Low/W C/F	Wednesday High C/F	Wednesday Low/W C/F
Ariel	18/64	9/48/pc	21/70	11/52/s	18/64	9/48/pc	18/64	7/44/pc
Beersheba	17/62	9/48/s	20/68	8/46/pc	17/62	8/46/c	16/61	7/44/pc
Dead Sea	21/70	10/50/s	24/75	11/52/s	20/68	8/46/pc	20/68	6/43/pc
Eilat	22/71	11/52/s	25/77	12/53/s	21/70	8/46/pc	20/68	7/44/pc
Haifa	16/61	11/52/sh	20/68	12/53/pc	17/62	9/48/sh	16/61	8/46/pc
Jerusalem	16/61	8/46/pc	19/66	9/48/pc	14/57	7/44/sh	12/53	5/41/pc
Katzrin	14/57	7/44/sh	18/64	8/48/pc	15/59	6/43/sh	14/57	5/41/pc
Netanya	16/61	11/52/c	19/66	11/52/pc	17/62	9/48/sh	17/62	7/44/pc
Tel Aviv	15/59	11/52/c	19/66	10/50/pc	17/62	10/50/sh	17/62	7/44/pc
Tiberias	16/61	8/46/c	19/66	10/50/pc	17/62	8/46/sh	17/62	6/43/pc

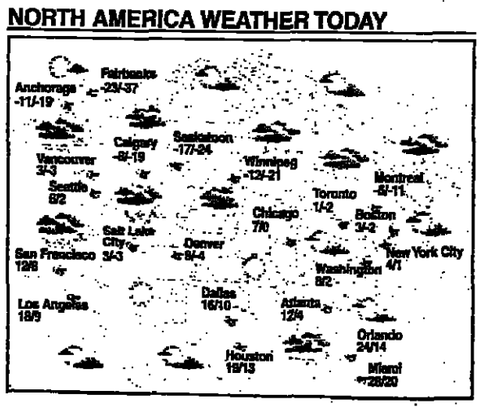
Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, Hot.

First Dec 26 · Full Jan 2 · Last Jan 9 · New Jan 17

INTERNATIONAL CITIES

City	Today High C/F	Today Low/W C/F	Monday High C/F	Monday Low/W C/F	Tuesday High C/F	Tuesday Low/W C/F
Amsterdam	8/48	6/43/r	7/44	-2/29/sh	4/39	4/39/pc
Beijing	12/53	2/35/s	6/43	-9/16/s	2/35	-9/16/s
Berlin	8/46	6/46/sh	9/48	3/37/c	4/39	2/35/pc
Brussels	9/48	6/43/r	7/44	-1/31/r	6/43	5/41/s
Cairo	14/57	10/50/pc	17/62	6/43/pc	16/61	8/46/pc
Chicago	7/44	0/32/c	6/43	-2/29/c	2/35	-8/18/sf
Frankfurt	8/46	7/44/sh	9/48	3/37/c	4/39	2/35/pc
Hong Kong	22/71	16/61/pc	22/71	17/62/pc	21/70	16/61/pc
Johannesburg	29/82	19/64/c	27/80	16/61/pc	29/84	17/62/pc
London	10/50	4/39/r	6/43	0/32/c	8/46	3/37/pc
Los Angeles	18/64	9/48/pc	22/71	9/48/pc	23/73	10/50/pc
Madrid	13/55	0/32/s	8/46	-2/29/c	11/52	2/35/s
Mexico City	22/71	6/43/pc	22/71	7/44/s	20/68	6/43/pc
Montreal	-5/24	-11/13/sf	1/34	-4/25/pc	6/43	-4/25/sn
Moscow	-2/29	-4/25/sn	0/32	-1/31/sn	6/43	1/34/s
New York	4/39	1/34/pc	8/46	3/37/pc	8/46	2/35/r
Paris	7/44	3/37/r	3/37	-3/27/sn	6/43	3/37/pc
Prague	7/44	6/43/c	8/48	3/37/pc	5/41	1/34/pc
Rio de Janeiro	26/79	20/68/pc	27/80	23/73/pc	28/82	24/75/sh
Rome	12/53	5/41/pc	13/55	5/41/c	13/55	4/39/pc
Sydney	26/78	18/64/s	27/80	19/66/s	27/80	21/70/pc
Tokyo	10/50	8/46/pc	13/55	9/48/pc	13/55	6/48/pc
Toronto	1/34	-2/29/sf	6/43	2/35/sf	7/44	-3/27/r
Vienna	7/44	4/39/c	10/50	4/39/r	8/46	3/37/pc
Warsaw	4/39	4/39/sh	8/48	-5/41/c	7/44	2/35/pc
Washington	8/46	2/35/pc	11/52	7/44/r	11/52	1/30/r
Zurich	7/44	4/39/sh	7/44	2/35/c	4/39	2/35/pc

NORTH AMERICA WEATHER TODAY



More woe for Windies against SA

DURBAN (Reuters) – West Indies' wretched form against South Africa continued in the third Test as the tourists crumbled from 50 without loss to 198 all out on the opening day yesterday.

All-rounder Jacques Kallis, who took three for 18 with his medium-pace swing, and David Terbrugge, who cut short a threatening innings of 51 by Brian Lara, destroyed the top order after West Indies were put in to bat on a cracked, well-grassed pitch.

Only wicketkeeper Ridley Jacobs (39) offered lower order resistance as West Indies once again contributed to their downfall with loose strokes and were dismissed in just 71.1 overs.

Marshall blasts Windies batsmen, Page 13

South African captain Hansie Cronje completed the destruction by taking a career-best three for 19 in 25 deliveries with his medium pacers.

South Africa, who lead the five-Test series 2-0, wrapped up their successful day at Kingsmead by making 46 without loss by the close, with Gary Kirsten on 15 and Herschelle Gibbs on 26.

Twice in the West Indies innings three wickets fell in the space of seven runs. The last five wickets tumbled for 20 runs.

The ball often flew off the edge or the splice in Lara's aggressive innings and 30 minutes before tea the West Indies captain spliced a pull off Terbrugge to Cronje at mid-on to leave West Indies 133 for five.

Lara was at the crease 124 minutes, faced 91 balls and hit eight fours and a six. His departure squashed West Indian hopes of a respectable total.



A dejected Brian Lara heads back to the Kingsmead Oval pavilion after top-scoring with 51 for West Indies. (Reuters)

An earlier blow was the dismissal of Carl Hooper, who slashed at a wide delivery from Kallis 40 minutes after lunch and was caught at first slip by Daryll Cullinan.

Hooper had scored just 10 runs but had combined with Lara to share 48 runs for the fourth wicket.

Darren Ganga, a 19-year-old Trinidadian making his test debut in place of Floyd Reifer, stood firm for a promising 28 in a sixth-wicket stand of 45 with Jacobs.

Ganga, one of five changes to the West Indies side which lost the second Test by 178 runs with more than two days to spare, chopped a delivery from Shaun Pollock on to his stumps.

His dismissal ended the last significant partnership of the innings, which closed when Jacobs was bowled by Cronje.

Jacobs had batted with a discipline which contrasted with the reckless strokes which accounted for several of his team mates.

Openers Philo Wallace and Junior Murray had appeared to set West Indies off on the right track with a stand of 50.

But in the 18th over Wallace, who missed the second test with glandular fever, was caught at first slip by Cullinan off Kallis for 21.

One over later Murray, promoted from reserve wicketkeeper to open the innings in place of Clayton Lambert, was trapped in front by Terbrugge for 29.

In the 22nd over Kallis struck again when Shivnarine Chanderpaul's footwork failed and the batsman was caught between first and second slip by diving wicketkeeper Mark Boucher.

West Indies first innings

P.Wallace c Cullinan b Kallis	21
J.Murray lbw b Terbrugge	29
S.Chanderpaul c Boucher b Kallis	4
B.Lara c Cronje b Terbrugge	51
C.Hooper c Cullinan b Kallis	10
D.Ganga b Pollock	28
R.Jacobs b Cronje	39
R.Lewis c Cullinan b Cronje	0
F.Rose c Kallis b Cronje	6
C.Ambrose run out (Rhodes)	0
C.Walsh not out 0 Extras (lb-5 nb-5)	10
Total	198

Fall of wickets: 1-50 2-52 3-57 4-105 5-133 6-178 7-179 8-185 9-196

Bowling: Donald 13.4-1-55-0, Pollock 23.2-8-45-1 (nb-4), Terbrugge 12-2-38-2 (nb-1), Kallis 10-3-18-3, Symcox 8-1-17-0, Cronje 4.1-0-19-3

South Africa first innings

G.Kirsten not out	15
H.Gibbs not out	26
Extras (b-4 nb-1)	5
Total (for no wicket)	46

To bat: J.Kallis, D.Cullinan, H.Cronje J.Rhodes, S.Terbrugge, M.Boucher, P.Symcox, A.Donald, D.Pollock.

Bowling (to date): Ambrose 6-0-22-0 (nb-1), Walsh 8-3-12-0, Rose 3-0-8-0, Lewis 1-0-2-0.

هكذا من الاصل